

# Korean War Journals

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LST 898

(Second, re-edited version)









## INTRODUCTION: KOREAN WAR JOURNALS

The dates of and circumstances related to a person's first knowledge of world events seems to stick with you. I clearly remember how I first learned about the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Tommy Coglas, my boyhood friend, and I were playing "kick the can" on the street in front of his house. Suddenly his mother rushed out of the house and ran through the gate of their white picket fence shouting "The Japanese (I can't remember if she used the term "Japs") have attacked Pearl Harbor. Other such events that fill my memory bank, for example, includes: the death of FDR, the dropping of the Atomic Bomb, Soviet launching of Sputnik, and the assassination of JFK. I also include June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1950 because it, unlike those previously mentioned, effected my life. My friends and I had gathered the evening of June 24<sup>th</sup>, for a church event and I remember we discussed the impact that the North Korean invasion of South Korea could have on our lives, but we didn't think then it would alter our lives much. But after the Chinese sent one-half million troops into North Korea in the fall of 1950, my life did indeed change. Many young men our age were being drafted, so many of us faced the decision to choose our service or wait out the draft. My younger brother, Bobby, told me that he and a friend, Don Molitor, planned to join the Navy. Unexpectedly to myself and others, I decided to enlist in the Navy. So in mid-December 1950, the three of us went to the Navy recruiting office. Bobby, however, failed the mental test. I barely passed the physical exam because of my flat feet. I remember the Navy recruiter sliding a ruler under my arch and then recording the number 1 on a scale of 10 on a chart. They were, I believe, desperate for recruits.

So I left college after one year. I had began attending Seattle University in January, 1950 rather than joining numerous classmates at the University of Washington







hard winter and it was great to retrace my naval experience while looking out my office window at piles of snow. Another factor that rekindled my memory was the desire to explore in detail the death of my brother Bobby who was killed in Korean on October 4, 1951, just a few days after his daughter Linda was born.

Although this journal includes some summaries of events, most of it lifts sentences from my letters. I did correct spelling, punctuation, and syntax where needed. The experience has been nostalgic, I've enjoyed retelling my past to family and friends. I didn't realize how much I had forgotten about my and the ship's life during my navy years. For example, we engaged in a rescue mission while going from Japan to Pearl Harbor in the Spring of 1954. I also forgot about the numerous ports of call and beaches that we landed on or moored during our two extended visits to the Far East.

As an historian of Colonial American History and the American Revolutionary History, I have read numerous diaries and memoirs by participants in war and non-war events. One such memoir is that by Private Joseph Martin's who recalls his ups and downs during the American Revolution. Much of what he wrote dealt, as did my letters, not about war but every day life. In my case every day life meant standing 4 or 8 hour watches, listening to Morse Code, reading books, watching our ship's nightly movie, writing my novel, or of course, going on liberty at ports at home or abroad with my buddies.







## HISTORY OF LST 898

USS Lincoln County

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From: *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, V. 4, 1969, pp. 114-115.

### *Lincoln County*

Counties in 24 States.

(LST-898: dp. 1,625; l. 338'; b. 50'; dr. 11'; s. 12 k.; cpl. 266; a. 8 40mm., 12 20mm.; cl. LST-511)

LST-898 was laid down by Dravo Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa., 15 October 1944; launched 25 November, sponsored by Mrs. J. B. Mawhinney; and commissioned 29 December, Lt. D. W. Kallock in command.

After shakedown off Florida, she loaded cargo at New Orleans and departed 4 February 1945. Sailing via the Canal Zone, LST-898 arrived Majuro 12 March, then proceeded to Saipan to prepare for the Okinawa invasion. Departing Saipan 12 April she arrived Chimu Wan, Okinawa, and discharged cargo on this strategic base which lay at the gateway to Japan. Returning to Saipan 6 April, LST-898 shuttled troops and equipment among the Marianas, Philippines, Okinawa during the remaining months of the war. Following the Allied victory in the Pacific, she operated in the Far East, transporting occupation forces and equipment until late November. From December 1945 to February 1946, the landing ship aided in the dismantling of Army bases in the Philippines. She remained in the Philippines and decommissioned there 9 May 1946. On 25 May she was transferred to the Army for cargo operations.

LST-898 returned to Navy control 1 June 1950 and for the next 3 months performed cargo operations for MSTS in Japan and Korea. The Communist threat to South Korea called for a buildup of naval forces to speed the flow of men and supplies into the conflict.

LST-898 recommissioned 28 August 1950, loaded troops and vehicles Kobe, Japan, for the Inchon invasion, then sailed 10 September for the west coast of Korea. The veteran landing ship participated in the well-executed invasion at Inchon 15 September. The success of the operation prompted Gen. Douglas MacArthur to remark that "The Navy and Marines have never shone more brightly than this morning." After discharging troops and cargo, she provided emergency medical care for wounded marines, then supported assault forces by shelling enemy positions ashore.

LST-898 supported operations at Inchon until mid-October; after Chinese troops entered the conflict, she redeployed U.S. Marines in northern Korea. From October to 29 December, she evacuated Marines and Korean civilians from Hungnam and Wonsan to Pusan. From January to late April 1951, LST-898 continued supply runs between Japanese and Korean ports. Departing Yokosuka 24 April she arrived San Diego 21 May for overhaul and training exercises.

She returned Yokosuka 3 April 1952 for her second tour in the fight against Communism in the embattled Korean peninsula. Throughout the next 6 months, she ferried troops and supplies between Japan and Korea, returning San Diego 16 November. During summer 1953, LST-898 carried supplies to Navy installations at Point Barrow, Alaska, remaining in the Arctic until early September. For the next 2 years the veteran landing ship alternated operations in the western Pacific with amphibious exercises off the west coast.

On 15 July 1955 LST-898 was named *Lincoln County*. From 1955 to 1960, she sailed for three tours with the 7th Fleet, made one cruise to the frigid Arctic to supply "Dew Line" installations, and participated in amphibious exercises off the west coast and Hawaii.

After serving the Navy during two wars besides sailing on many tours with the 7th Fleet to prevent incidents from enlarging into new conflicts, *Lincoln County* decommissioned 24 March 1961. On 31 August 1962 she was turned over to the government of Thailand under the terms



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of the Military Assistance Program. At present she serves the Royal Thai Navy as *Chang* (LST-2).

LST-898 received one battle star for World War II service and six for Korean service.

Transcribed by Richard H. Bouchard.

101-3  
US Naval Training  
Center - USNVC  
San Diego

We finally got to the ship. It was an  
essential and good. We got on board and went to  
USNVC. We were issued 31.5 worth of stuff. They  
had our names on our clothes. We also  
went to the barracks where we'll be quarantined  
for the next three weeks. It's 5:30 AM. We started  
the day again with the usual breakfast. I took a  
shower and got ready.

101-3  
USNVC  
San Diego

The Navy doesn't seem to have as much room as  
I had in my room. There have to be people  
in the Navy. The way we dress is very nice. We  
have a bag which has to go on our back with the  
strap up the back of the leg and the strap down  
the middle. The clothes have to be rolled in  
certain way. The blankets on the beds have to be  
folded one way, and placed on the bed a certain  
way. The clothes we wear have to be on the line  
facing the front or clothes pile. There were  
there were two shirts in a pack. Well in the Navy  
there seems to be a lot more to every thing, probably  
the right way and the Navy way.

102-3  
USNVC  
San Diego

[Some series of post cards with notes.] Our  
company is having a problem with the company  
and we don't have a fight. "I don't  
like bread and water." I plan to go to the store and  
if I can't find it, I'll go to the company and  
ask for it. I was able to use my time to wash clothes  
and shine shoes.



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1. The first step in the process of the project is to

identify the problem and the objectives of the project.

2. The second step is to develop a plan of action.



## 8-1 Korean War Journal: 1951

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
1/9/51	Somewhere near the Oregon and California border	A troop train transported recruits from Seattle to San Diego, picking up recruits as we progressed. Don Molitor, who joined the navy with me, and I "felt like a couple of kings because we were able to snare a deluxe Pullman Car. We had great food that didn't cost a nickel. We also learned that "boot" camp will only last 9 weeks.
1/11/51	US Naval Training Center or USNTC San Diego	We finally arrived in San Diego and 565 of us unloaded and then were put on buses and taken to USNTC. We were issued \$115 worth of stuff, then had our names stenciled on our clothes. We then marched to the barracks where we'll be quarantined for the next three weeks. It's 5:30 AM. We started the day again with the usual breakfast. It stunk. I only ate 1/3 of it.
1/11-21/51	USNTC San Diego	The Navy doesn't seem as bad as people portrayed it and I find it pretty nice. Things have to be perfect in the Navy. The way we dress is only one way, we have leggings which have to go on perfect with one crease up the back of the leg and the inside seam down the middle. The clothes have to be rolled a certain way. The blankets on the bunks have to be folded one way, and placed on the bunk a certain way. The clothes we wash must be hung on the line facing the mast or clothes pole. Did you know there were two sides to a towel. Well in the Navy there seems to be two sides to every thing, probably the right way and the Navy way.
1/22/51	USNTC San Diego 	[Sent a series of post cards with notes.] Our company is having a problem with the company next to us, I hope we don't have a fight. "I don't like bread and water." I plan to go to a show tonight if I can sneak out. Because our company was on fire duty, I was able to use my time to wash cloths and shine shoes







Date	Location	Comments and Activities
1/27/51	USNTC San Diego	I'm sending a postcard this time for a couple of reasons. I haven't any time to write a long letter and I haven't any more stamps. I got my Basic Battery test grades back today and had an interview. I didn't quite get enough total points in my tests to get into electronics, but had enough to go to radio school. We sure are doing a lot of marching now. We have to go through a certain regimental drills,
1/30/51 (To my brother Joe)	USNTC San Diego	Ask mom to call Seattle University and find out my grades. Today was not very pleasant for me, I had two cavities filled, and boy those dentists show no mercy when they're working on you. I was scared when I went in and twice as scared to imagine I'd have to go again. It almost made a crying baby out of me.
2/1/51	USNTC San Diego	Yesterday I had a Morse code test to see what my ability on learning the code would be. So I hope again that I did okay. I'm writing this letter in a boring class. One thing in the navy you just don't go to sleep in the class no matter how things are.
2/5/51	USNTC San Diego	We are now what you call old salts because we now are out of primary. From now on we will have quite a bit of leisure time. Last night some of my buddies and I went to the movies. We were in a big line and saw a little line on the side so we stood in it. We found out it was not for recruits but got in any way, then sat down in the wrong section.
2/6/51	USNTC	I saw Hank Sunday at the visitors gate. [Hank Larson & I worked at the Seattle Times together] He was the same old nut. I'm on the detail list again tonight because I forgot to do things the Navy way, which always seems to be the thing I'm doing. Tell Bobby [my brother who is a Fort Riley, Kansas ] to be sure to write to me if I can read his writing. I didn't think he would like the army but this is one thing he'll do whether he likes it or not, but he'll be a man anyhow. Thanks a lot for my grades it's not too bad for someone working eight hours a day. But some day I'll do better.







## Korean War Journal, 1951

Ltr. Date	Location	Activities & Comments
2/8/51	USNTC	I hope Bob doesn't act like the Kansans we got in our company. They are enough to drive a guy nuts. I'm always arguing with them over some little thing. But we get along anyway. Nothing can be as bad as the Texans.
2/12/51	USNTC	Well here I am again after a taste of the outside. I visited Alice and Neal [my dad's sister] who live in LA. They really made me feel at home. I almost thought I was a civilian. I was lucky. Five of us got a ride with a CPO to Long Beach which had been arranged by our CPO. When I arrived I was lost. I couldn't find a bus so someone told me to take a train to LA. I was told to get off at Compton, took two buses and walked 1½ miles to their house. It was well worth the effort. Aunt Alice served me great meals. Eating and sleeping were great. When Aunt Alice & Neal let me off at Long Beach boy did I feel lonely. I bet I was the greenest sailor in the whole navy. I didn't know what to do, then to top it off I got on a bus full of Marines. When I got to San Diego I didn't even know how to get to the base.
2/13/51	USNTC	We've had five half days learning how to fire the M-I. Thursday we will go on the range and shoot for our marksmanship record. I don't know but this place is growing more like the army all the time.







Date	Location	Comments and Activities
2/15-16 /51?	USNTC	Today we went to camp Elliot to shoot M-Is. Each of us fired 40 rounds which took around ½ hour. I got quite a few bulls-eyes. I thought I did fairly well because I had to shoot right-handed. The bull's eye was 200 yards and only 10 inches in diameter. Well mom this is the next day and I'm back from donating a pint of blood. Believe me the next time won't be too soon. After giving my blood I got up and went to get my clothes and then every thing went dizzy. I started weaving all over the deck. Finally I spotted a chair and headed for it, by that time a doctor was there. He gave me smelling salts and put my head between my knees. They let me rest for about 20 minutes. After I recovered I went to chow. Boy what food. They served T-bone steak with French dip. Also had soup, coffee, and Ice cream. We didn't have to stand in line. I went and got seconds for the first time since being in the navy.
2/15-3/3/51 Ltr. To Joe	USNTC	Our company won the basketball pennant this week which is pretty good considering we play all the companies on the base. Don and I played on the volley ball team. We lost the first game. Wrote Bobby a letter yesterday. He sure must be in love with Wilma. Tonight we go bowling and then to a show.
2/15-3/3/51	USNTC	Last night I finished the wonderful box of cookies you sent me. I shared them, then put them away. Then the company commander came in, he smells them ½ mile away, so I again got to break them out.
2/15-3/3/51	USNTC	Went on liberty and spent the day with Hank. We had quite a bit of fun with no money. I had 2 dollars and Hank had 51 cents. We went to the YMCA played double deck pinochle and saw a movie. Then we went to a religious center across the street, listened to a 15 minute sermon, had five cups of coffee and 7 pieces of cake. Then we went to a YMCA dance. Today we are going to play tennis with some guys from Everett. The base furnishes the tennis rackets and balls. Friday we got in a dress parade. All the top brass were on the receiving stand. I never felt prouder when the whole brigade stood at present arms and they played the national Anthem. They have a great library here and I sure like to go up there. We play cards, read books, and just sit in soft chairs.







Date	Location	Activities and Comments
3/3/51	USNTC	This week has been a cinch. We've been on detail 5 days and not one man has done a thing. Most of what we do is play poker. I played today and won \$4.50. [This was a letter to Joe.] If a guy wants to meet girls here, the only way is to go to church in San Diego. A couple of nights ago I got into a fight with a guy from Kansas. He'd been nagging me for quite a while and he just happened to rub me the wrong way. I don't think he'll wise off to me any more. No one else has either.
3/9/51	USNTC	We should have boot leave. We won't know for sure for several days. If it happens, I'll be home around Easter. Yesterday we learned how to row in the navy's whale boats. Some of us formed a crew for competition against other companies. So at least we can say we were at sea.
3/9-17/51	USNTC	Yesterday we took our basic battery tests which are to determine whether or not we are to go to school from here or not. I sure hope I get a good grades because it will help me get a good school. We now have a regular schedule. We get up at 5:30 AM and to to bed at 8:30 PM. Our day consists of classes with lectures and movies, physical training periods and various types of drilling with our guns. After that we wash our clothes, write letters, scrub the barracks and anything else the CPO can think of. Ernie (my boss at the Seattle Times) sent me a letter and told me all about the Times so I guess they didn't have to slow down any when I left. I sure hope my car gets sold because it's a worry I want to get rid of.
3/9-17/51	USNTC	Finally my test grades came back and I had my interview. I was disappointed because I didn't get high enough to go to electronics school. Maybe its okay because I was recommended for air school in Memphis, Tenn. If I get this I can strike for electronics, photography, or radio. I was also recommended for radio school here in San Diego.







## Korean War Journal: Boot Camp

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
3/9-17/51	USNTC	In this test we had 150 questions of everything we had and some we didn't have. Anyway I got 130 right. The highest score was 134, I tied for second place honors. I felt pretty good anyway. Tuesday we'll know what our future in the navy will be. For some reason I feel it will be Radio school. This is the next night and I have received the letter you told me to sit down. Believe me I just about fell over when I heard Bobby was home, and didn't read the rest right away. Then I read the rest and had to read it twice cause I just couldn't believe it, but anyway I'm very glad for both of them [Bobby & Wilma got married]. My only regret is that I couldn't be there, of course to kiss the bride. Looks like Joey will get married next and I will be left holding the bag.
3/9-15/51	USNTC	Don't write after the 17 <sup>th</sup> (March) and then by airmail. That because I'll be in OGU (Out Going Unit). Also have dad stop the paper on the 15 <sup>th</sup> so the post office here won't get a whole bunch at once. I had liberty Sunday and went to town and met Hank. We played double deck pinochle for a while, then took in a show.
4/8/51	Radio School USNTC	Three of us went to Tijuana. We had a good time, but I lost my liberty card on the way back and got restricted for 10 days. Radio school is pretty stiff. In fact you don't think you'll ever learn it. We have a very unique schedule. Two class rooms, one for code and one for typing, We're in class 7 hours a day. Somehow I was put in a row with guys who are suppose to know code, about 10 of us out of 60. I don't know why, I never had it before and the other guys are telegraph operators.
4/11/51	Radio School, USNTC	Unless things shape up different I'm not going to Los Angeles on this 48 hour pass, in fact not even off the base. They aren't going to pay us until the following Tuesday, which means no money. Yesterday our duty section didn't clean up the barracks well enough and the chief got mad. In fact we had to clean it up right after school, and from now on till he says our section marches every noon for the purpose of learning to work together.







## Korean War Journal, 1951

4/18/51	Radio School USNTC	This radio school is going to be tougher than hell. The last time I wrote I was ahead of the class, well it lasted a very short time. But now I passed the four words a minute test so I puts me in the upper 30%, Since I'm restricted I played tennis, basketball, and read a lot. We play 2 on 2 basketball, playing to 26 pts., we won, I scored 24 of the points.
4/18-?/51	Radio School USNTC	Last Sunday a buddy and I went golfing, boy you should have seen the first nine, but the second nine was the best golf game I had ever played. The code gets me, I do real well and then when he gives me a test I'm lousy. In fact I've been on six words per minute for a whole week, but just passed the test so now I'm on eight words per minute.
5/10/51	Radio School USNTC	This week we started (Radio) theory and I like it quite a bit, in fact its about the best thing in school here. Reminds me of my days in high school taking physics and Chem. In fact they helped me quite a bit. I got 90 on the last test. Have you seen the "Thing"? If you want something to scare the pants off you. I just about sat in my buddies lap I was so scared.
5/12/51	Radio School USNTC	I'm not going to Los Angeles for one reason. Our class had all its extended 48's cancelled for the month of May. We came by this for horsing around in chow lines. Not only that we have to march every noon now too. Boy I've been so darn mad at those guys we have running this damn radio school. I'm about ready to put in for sea duty and say the hell with it. I went golfing with a kid last Wednesday, boy you should have seen the brass. A Rear Admiral was there, and the Captain of the base was there too. They had a tournament for the eleventh naval district. Lt. Commanders were running around like recruits so you could imagine what we were. Just got back typing test results and I'm about the fourth best in the class, around 60 words / minute.
5/21/51	Radio School USNTC	I was quite satisfied with my grades this week. I got 38 in typing, (6 <sup>th</sup> in class), 88 in procedure (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) 95 in theory (1 <sup>st</sup> ). I am somewhat behind in code. I can't get off 10 words a minute. I couldn't find Tom Perry's ship. I get out of this place on July 27 <sup>th</sup> , believe me I'm coming home just as fast as I can.



<p>The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the plane was a sense of freedom. The air was fresh, and the sun was shining brightly. I had been waiting for this moment for so long, and it felt like a dream come true. I took a deep breath and smiled at the world around me.</p>	<p>First Flight 1955</p>	<p>1955</p>
<p>I had heard so much about the beauty of the Hawaiian Islands, and now I was finally seeing it all with my own eyes. The beaches were white and sandy, and the water was a brilliant blue. The palm trees swayed gently in the breeze, and the sound of the waves crashing against the shore was soothing.</p>	<p>Second Flight 1956</p>	<p>1956</p>
<p>As I walked along the shore, I noticed how peaceful everything was. There were no cars, no crowds, just nature in all its glory. I had heard that Hawaii was a paradise, and now I knew it was true. I had found a place where I could relax and enjoy the simple pleasures of life.</p>	<p>Third Flight 1957</p>	<p>1957</p>
<p>I had heard that the people of Hawaii were friendly and welcoming, and now I was experiencing it firsthand. They greeted me with warm smiles and kind words. I had heard that the food was delicious, and now I was tasting it. I had heard that the music was beautiful, and now I was listening to it. I had heard that the culture was rich and diverse, and now I was learning about it. I had heard that Hawaii was a special place, and now I was realizing why.</p>	<p>Fourth Flight 1958</p>	<p>1958</p>
<p>I had heard that Hawaii was a beautiful place, and now I was seeing it all with my own eyes. The beaches were white and sandy, and the water was a brilliant blue. The palm trees swayed gently in the breeze, and the sound of the waves crashing against the shore was soothing.</p>	<p>Fifth Flight 1959</p>	<p>1959</p>



## Korean War Journal: Radio School

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
5/24/51	Radio School USNTC	I haven't been on liberty so I haven't had time to look Tom Perry up. But plan on doing it this weekend. Also we're going to La Jolla Beach and go swimming. I can get the code a lot better this week. I expect to be on 14 words a minute by the end of this week which is in the upper portion of the class. If my code and procedure grades continue it will put me close to the top of the class. Bobby's letter shows he talks like a man with worries and troubles and I suppose it will be just the beginning.
5/29/51	Radio School USNTC	Last weekend was a haphazard affair, trying to go everywhere and getting no place; doing nothing. We started out (3 buddies and myself) went to the beach, stayed a couple of hours, then decided to go to Los Angeles, tried to hitchhike, got half way then came back to San Diego, then went to Tijuana ...came back to San Diego about 4 AM. Then went to the beach again, the sun vanished so we got a bus and came to the base. In all we got about 3 hrs. sleep and spent \$10 on buses, that's the navy for you.
6/3/51	Radio School USNTC	Today I beat Red in a game of chess, the first in about fifty games. Yesterday four of us played tennis for a couple of hours. You can go to the gym and check out anything you want, even a towel and soap for showers. Of Course I won. When you don't have any money, its nice to be able to enjoy the facilities of the base. Friday we had four tests and I am glad to say that I did very well in all of them. I got a hundred in theory, a 90 in procedure (first in class) and 85 in sending and a 93 in code.
6/9/51	Radio School USNTC	I'm going to try to get another year of college taking USAFEI courses. I've decided I want to be a history teacher because I love history, I want to be around people. I was just thinking about how things have changed in the last year. No one could have told me a year ago that at this time the family would be all over the United States.
6/14/51	Radio School USNTC	This week was scary. I almost got sent back to 22A because of code. It seems that for two weeks I can't take a test, in fact my hands shake all over. I can copy 16 words/minute which is very good, but when a test comes on I get nervous...I just got under the line this time. I'm going to night school next week.







## Korean War Journal: 1951

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
6/21/51	Radio School USNTC	A buddy who is getting married soon, had his wallet stolen while he was sleeping. We took up a collection and raised about \$40 to help him out. He also loss his liberty card and so will get 10 days restriction, a hell of a thing for a young married couple. He did get special liberty for a day or two. You know the deal about coming in late and raising hell last Friday. Well we got duty every other night in the head till the first of July.
6/26/51	Radio School USNTC	We took the train to LA but got in so late a buddy and I decided to stay at a hotel. Cost us \$2.50 each. It wasn't exactly the Biltmore. We visited various bars just to see how many we could get thrown out of, we managed about 2 for 3. I enjoyed my visit with Alice & Neal, mostly ate and watched TV. I hope that Bobby gets to stay in Fort Lawton. If he doesn't have to go to Korea or Japan, he will be mighty lucky because with the armies replacement everyone gets his turn. I just can't imagine my little brother over seas.
6/27-31/51	Radio School USNTC	I've been checking airlines and can get a ticket for about \$50. I'm now learning about the teletype. Sunday 4 buddies and I took in a little golfing, and for once I even enjoyed it. Next week we have final exams.
7/1/51	Radio School USNTC	Went to Tijuana again with a buddy, we only spent \$6. I am going to graduate on July 27 <sup>th</sup> for sure now-at times this week I had my doubts—but passed the last possible test in plain language and 5 letter code. We go on FOX watches this week. We do it for four hours, I better get use to it because I have 3 ½ years left. Played football yesterday morning and then basketball in the afternoon. Today we're playing tennis. Here's a poem I wrote for a buddy to send to his girl friend: My eyes are closed and yet I see you My arms are bound and yet I hold you My lips are sealed and yet I kiss you My heart is broken and yet I love you







## Korean War Journals, 1951

Date	Location	Comments and Activities
7/5/51	Radio School USNTC	Finally get a letter from Henry O Larson (Hank who I worked with at the Seattle Times). He's writing from Puson. He's a storekeeper, a soft job. The fourth was quiet but we did have some real chow that was even cooked well.
7/8/51	Radio School USNTC	Looks like I'll be able to see Tommy Coglas when I get home. Monday we get our orders. I got a 94 in the code test which gives me a 93.5 average in the finals which counts as 2/3 of the final mark Right now it's the highest, but there is one or two who have a higher weekly average than I have. Another poem: My one desire would be To climb a mountain or swim the sea; To see the world aboard a plane To die here and yet remain; But no desire would ever be true If for one moment, I wasn't with you.
7/11/51?	Radio School USNTC	At least part of the nervous strain that we've been riding under has left us. In the final exam I got the highest grade in the class. I missed 11, the least of anyone. I wish I could say the same about code. I saw a terrific show tonight, "Cyrano de Bergerac" with Jose Ferrer.

## Ending Radio School





Activities & Comments	Location	Time
<p>There Monday we got out when... I was a great nurse last night "Showboat". Well a couple of the guys wanted to go getting so I went. We played some games. I shot a honey 99. Well I think of all the courses I got chasing the balls all over the place. Because you keep these things for a record here's one for the record. I want to tell about some of the guys here for my future info if not your info. But buddy is Dominic La Rocco who has inherited a vocabulary of his own. His side is Olive the friend headed German. Good looking, lady killer. A wild fellow. Red Robinson is my best buddy who has the jewelry job. I always coming him about changing his buddies out of pencils and pencils and I become his helper. I call him Red. He calls me Red. Another swell guy is Dominick Sullivan who we call "Doc" for short. He has likes and dislikes like I do. Loves poetry, movies, and music like I do. Billy Rodgers "the Kid" who for some reason has made the place of a label. I have it. Billy from Denver who buddies around with us. I have my own crew and is always teasing me by calling them "two-pis" holes in the snow. Another guy is James who got married. He had 350 when we made it up for him. (Note: I don't remember meeting any of this crew again after Radio School.)</p>	Radio School	10:45
<p>10:45 (the ship) was assigned to after Radio School) is not here but in San Francisco. So eventually they will find a way to get me to my ship which is destined for Honolulu. (Note: So I have been assigned to the commissary which means doing a lot of loading and unloading. I will say that the crew is good here. After show you can go to a movie. The officers are really nice. The warrant officer carried boxes when we got behind. The CPO took off his shirt and also worked with us. I did play golf today (8:30). I have watch tomorrow. Still waiting to be sent to my ship.</p>	Amphibious Base, North Island, San Diego	8:00, 8:30, 8:45, 8:55



Date	Location	Activities & Comments
8/14/51	On board LST 762 San Diego	This morning another radio man named Hurly and I got orders to go aboard LST 762 which will take us to Pearl Harbor where I hope to find LST 898. I was surprised to find so much room on this ship. The chow wasn't too bad compared to the Navy standards. They have a small library, a gedunk (candy etc.) and a ships store. We leave Friday about noon. It will takes us 12 days to reach Pearl Harbor. I would like the sports page of the times so I could check up on the Rainiers and the Huskies.
8/16/51	On board LST 562 San Diego	I'm in the YMCA, my last stateside leave for a long time. I'm listening to Brahms 4 <sup>th</sup> Symphony, I know you'll be delighted to know. Stood my first radio watch, boy was I scared afraid that something would come over the radio for us. I've learned that LST 898 is going to be in Pearl Harbor for over 2 months getting an overhaul. Our cargo deck is filled with civilian cars. Probably for officers in Japan.
8/19-22/51	On board LST 762, Somewhere on the Pacific Ocean	I'm not seasick yet, but this constant rolling back and forth is going to get me yet. I hope I have lots of mail when I get to Pearl Harbor. A month is a long time for not knowing anything. I don't do much during the day, I'm reading "Forever Amber" We almost had an accident today. A group of sailors were learning how to rescue people from the water when the ropes holding the boat broke, leaving an end dangling in the air. According to the news service the Rainiers are 6 games ahead, so they should win the pennant. Tell Aunt Marge she can send me the \$1 anytime. Budding around with another radio man I mentioned earlier. We are arguing who was President during the War of 1812?
8/30/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	Well I'm on my own ship, and believe me its great to find something to belong to, even if it's a rust pot, it's a home to us. The ship is in dry dock. I think we're the only LST in the whole Navy to have port holes in the side compartment. This makes it a lot cooler throughout the ship. We got here at Pearl Harbor Monday night so I went on liberty to take in the sights. I've heard so much about these Hawaii women I couldn't wait. They didn't go around in grass skirts though, but what I saw I liked very much. We have good liberty here. We get a 72 hour pass every 3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend, a weekend pass every 2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend, and have duty the other weekend



<p>1890 1891</p>	<p>1890 1891</p>	<p>1890 1891</p>
<p>1892</p>	<p>1892</p>	<p>1892</p>
<p>1893</p>	<p>1893</p>	<p>1893</p>
<p>1894</p>	<p>1894</p>	<p>1894</p>



Date	Location	Activities & Comments
9/2/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	I had liberty from Friday at 11 AM to Tuesday at 7:30 AM, but only \$4.50. Rented a room at the YMCA, the old Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Went to a dance at the YMCA, got free refreshments. Went to the beach on Saturday. I met Dick Finstad, he's stationed at Hickman field. I talked to some girls who, like most of the girls here, are on vacation from the states. Saturday night I went to a Hula Show and learned what the various movements meant, but didn't explain what the wiggle around the middle was. I can't believe that Bobby is in Korea, a mile away from the Reds. I hope he's right about not doing anything.
9/8/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	[Letter written to Tommy Coglas] Got your letter today. I was sorry to hear that you are by now in Korea. It's a hell of a place to take a tour. You don't believe you are on a tour, well I have a newspaper clipping to prove it. The headline of the article said: "KELLER, COGLAS ON LEAVE BEFORE OVERSEAS TOURS" [See article below] If you run into someone from the tenth division, my brother is there. In fact the last time I saw or heard from mother, he was a mile between or away from the communists in the hills sitting between two tanks. You know Tommy this war has a new meaning to me now with you and my little brother in Korea. I just get sick all over when I think of sending a little kid like Bobby, who should be a senior in high school, to fight a man's war. Boy Tommy I have felt lousy all week over it, but I'll pray a little more sincerely now. Enough! Enough! You're not the chaplain and I don't want to make you feel any worse, so let's change the subject. [I did and told him about my experiences at Pearl Harbor]
9/16/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	I was glad to learn that Bobby was moved back from the front lines. Boy the seaman sure get all the Horsesh-- on this ship. When all the gravy is passed out I get what's left. It burns me up but I can take it, and as much more as they can give out. This is one kid that won't tell the Navy to go to hell until Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1955. I haven't heard any code for a month and it doesn't look like I will for another two months, Boy I'm sure worried about forgetting all I learned in Radio School.







Date	Location	Activities and Comments
9/20/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	I'm going on liberty this weekend, it's the first liberty I've had when I've been paid. Things aren't nearly as bad as my last letter. Looks like we'll be in dry dock until Nov. 15 Marge and Bob wrote me a letter, she still owes me a \$1 on our bet. I met a friend from Radio School. We're going to have liberty together. Thanks for the clippings. Wrote a letter to Bobby. Sure hope he gets it. Mail means so much when our sitting in a fox hole.
9/23/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	Went on liberty with a shipmate. We rented a room for three nights. Went to a dance Friday night and a high school football game on Saturday. Went to a servicemen's party on Saturday, won a prize (33 cent sundae) for making a fool out of myself on the stage [No clue of what I did]. I hope to explain that I was just a little put out when I wrote that letter, but I'm quite a bit better now.
9/30/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	Do you feel gray?. Do you feel any older? Well I don't and I'm an uncle. Anyway I'm so glad you have a grand daughter. I'm going to take a seaman test this week, that means about 12 dollars more a month. Justin is sending me a whole bunch of stuff on the USAF1 courses from the U of W.
10/8/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	You can now write Clair Keller, RMSN since I passed the test. I bet you are really spoiling Linda. Went to another football game on Saturday, won a \$1. Received a letter from Bobby. He was still in the frontlines when he wrote me.

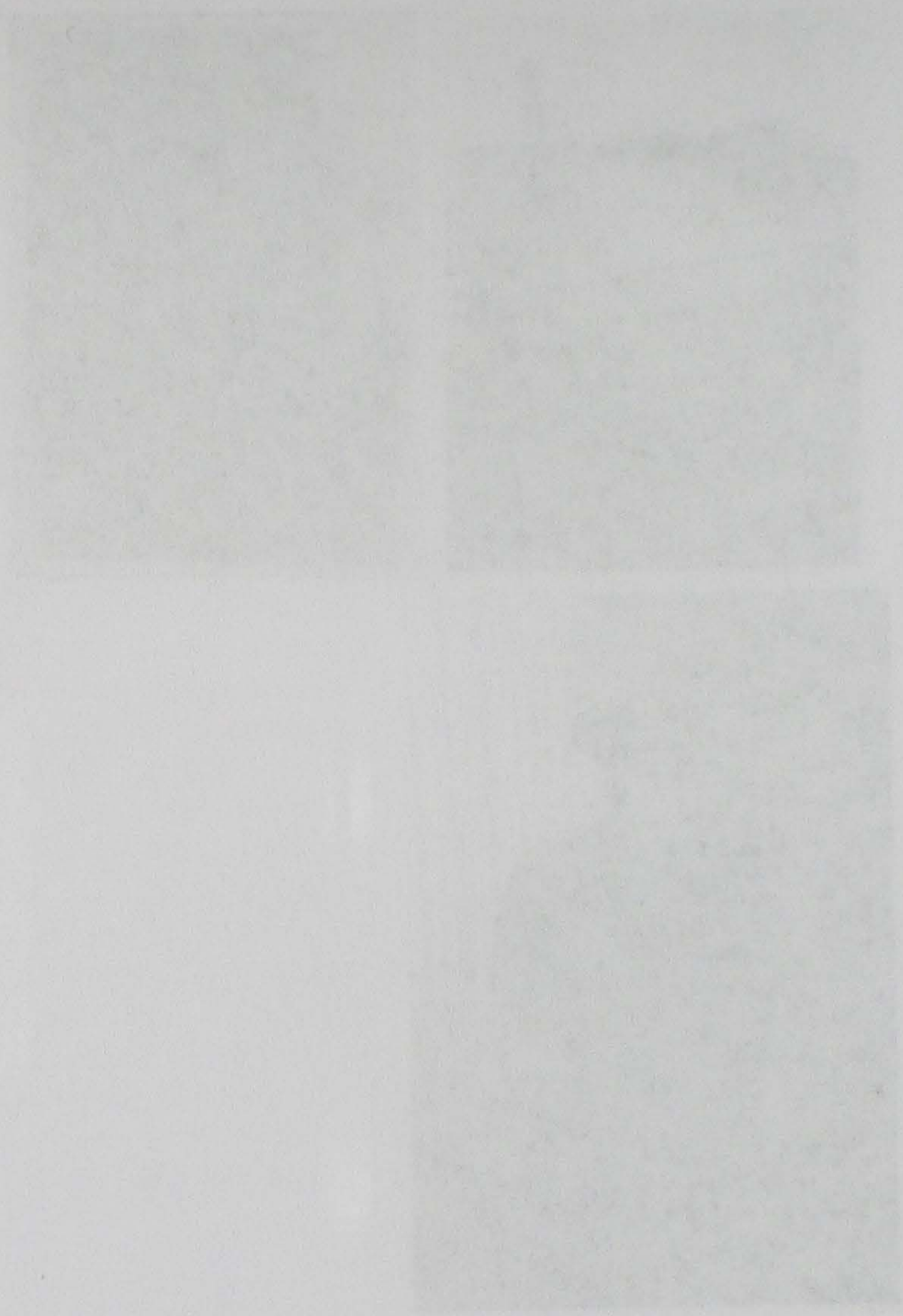














Date	Location	Comments and Activities
10/14/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	I went to a football game on Friday night. I follow the school games quite a bit. It gives me something to argue about with the yard workers. Spent most of Friday listening to records in the music room at the YMCA and studied for the Radioman 3 <sup>rd</sup> class which can be taken in January. I doubt if I can pass it since it's a fleet competition, If I did make 3 <sup>rd</sup> class it would be a pretty fast advancement. We have lousy food because the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> class cooks left the ship and now we have a SA which is what I am until Oct. 16 when I become a RMSN. The other night he took a pork roast and boiled it. Fortunately, I was off the ship. If I ever get home and my niece cries, I'll try not to "throw the dam brat out the window" a quote from you know who.
10/18/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	It was really wonderful to see a picture of Linda Diane, but how in the heck does she look like anyone. I didn't know she was a pin up baby. Hope Bobby gets the picture the P.I said they were going to send him one. We're leaving dry dock in a couple of days and what a relief it will be to get on the water again. I don't know if I told you about Abraham but he is about the best buddy I have here. The other guys are swell too, but "Ole" Abe just takes the cake. We seem to enjoy the same things. We go to football games, study something or argue. You jut can't help but love the big oof. He is really smart too, always studying something to get himself ahead. Most of all we have the same kind of philosophy on life. Justin's package for information on U. of W correspondence courses arrived, I'm going to send for one to get started toward my BA in education.







## Korean War Journal

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
10/25/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	We are now out of that old filthy dry dock, boy does it feel great to be on water again, to smell the cool fresh air and be able to sleep again. We had a fire in the compartment below one of the heads. Had two fire engines and a fire boat here. Of course I had to get in the way, so I volunteered in the usual Navy way. They told me to grab a line from the fire boat. So I start hauling it in and it gets so heavy I can't do anything but stand and yell for help and there isn't anyone around to help me with it. Finally I did get some help. Received a letter from Tommy Coglas. Has a girl friend in Korea already. A Red Cross girl so he's not after those Korean girls. I guess the VD cases scared him.
11/1/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	Right now I'm listening to music which is put over the loud speaker every night after chow, it's the first thing this ship has done for the crew. Still having to do the chipping and painting on the deck, but my job is getting to be more a variety in the Radio direction. The communication officer gave me a booklet of stuff to type up for him today. It had to be errorless so I sure took my time. I have it half done. The idea is that he thinks enough of me to give me things to do in preference to other higher rated men. It makes me feel a little better anyway.
11/14/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	[I've evidently learned that Bobby has been killed in Korea. I found out when someone threw a message on my bunk. ] Today I read in your letter the nicest thing any person had ever said to me. If I do nothing more in life I want to be worthy in everyway of that. Somehow I feel a personal challenge to make it all up to you and dad, If there is anyway I can help Linda and Wilma,  Somehow I can't agree with Rev. Soltman [Our Methodist minister that had a great influence on my life] that it was God's plan, because to me God is too gentle and so full of mercy. I think God has let man struggle in his own way and thus face the consequences. In this process the innocent must suffer because they are never the cause, just the pawns. [Below is a typed copy of the letter from the Company F Chaplain describing the circumstances of the death of my brother]







5<sup>th</sup> Cav. Regt, 1 Cav. Div  
APO 201, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, Cal  
December 18, 1951

Dear Mrs. Keller,

The company commander of "F" Company gave me your letter asking me to answer it for him.

First of all let me offer you my sincere sympathy. Naturally, I cannot know just how mothers feel on the loss of their sons; but I am a civilian pastor, helping as Chaplain in war time and it pains me deeply to see these fine young men suffer and some of them die—pains me deeply even though they are only our men, not my own sons. It may seem strange to you but because these things hurt us so much who only look on, therefore we feel almost like should for joy when one of our men is only lightly wounded so that we know he will be all right.

And that is the sort of details I can give you about your son. He was wounded in the shoulder as the company was attacking the Chinese who were dug in near the top. He was helping one of his buddies down the hill and away from the fighting.

He was very happy about his wound, saying he had a stateside wound; recovery was sure, but it would take time and for that he would be sent back to the United States. But when they had reached the bottom of the hill, several enemy mortar shell fell near by, fragments hitting and killing him.

There are two men in the company who lived with your son. One is John Veloz; his home is somewhere in New Mexico but you may write to him here if you wish. The other is James Chisholm, his home is in Yakima. He says that he plans to stop in to see you when he gets to the United States. You may write him also if you wish.

I hope that this answers your questions. And once again I would like to offer you my sympathies. I pray that God will comfort you and all the mothers of our fine young men.

Yours,

L. H. Ruthenbeck  
Chaplain







## Death Ends Happiness Of Seattle G.I. After He Learns He's Father



**DADDY'S GONE**—Mrs. Wilma J. Keller, whose husband, Pvt. Robert W. Keller, was killed in action in Korea October 4, holds their daughter, Linda Diane, and smiles broadly as she looks at their wedding picture. Her husband never saw the baby. —(Post-Intelligencer Photo.)

### Last Letter From Korea Battlefield Had Asked For Baby's Picture

Mrs. Wilma J. Keller, 7606-54th Ave. N. E., fondled her baby girl and quietly took inventory Monday afternoon. Her husband, Pvt. Robert W. Keller, 18, who had never seen the baby, was killed in action in Korea October 4.

"She looks more like him than like me," Mrs. Keller said, as she put a white organdy dress on Linda Diane. The baby laughed and kicked her feet. "She's a happy baby . . ."

#### PLEASED—

Linda Diane's father was happy, too, on October 3, the day he wrote his last letter to his wife.

"Yes, darling," he wrote, "I just received word that I'm a father. Darling, who does she look like, you or me? I bet she looks like her pretty mother."

"Darling, I'm so happy that you had a girl. I'm so pleased I can't even write this letter. I bet mom and dad are as proud as peacocks . . . Everybody has been shaking my hand and congratulating me . . . I love you, darling . . . I'll write you a long letter tomorrow."

And then Private Keller added a postscript:

"Hello, Linda baby."

#### PICTURE MAILED—

Mrs. Keller looked at all of his letters and at their wedding picture. That last letter had asked for a picture of her and of the baby. The Post-Intelligencer had taken the picture of them and she had mailed it to her husband, not knowing then that Private Keller had already been lost in battle.

Linda Diane was born September 26 in Fort Lawton Hospital. She had her picture taken for her daddy October 10. A few days later, her daddy was reported missing in action. And then, official word that he had been killed in action.

Private Keller was born in Fargo, N. D., and had lived in Seattle 11 years, attending Lincoln High School and joining the Army January 25. He left for Ko-



**KILLED IN ACTION**—Pvt. Robert W. Keller, 18, who was killed in action in Korea October 4, the day after receiving word that he had become the father of a baby girl.

rea last July. Also surviving are two brothers, Clair, 19, in the Navy at Pearl Harbor, and Joseph, 17, Seattle.







Date	Location	Activities & Comments
11/18/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	This will be my last letter until we reach San Diego on Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> . We are laying rubber matting in the radio shack. The place is really nice, about the cleanest place on the whole ship. Monday we'll start radio watches, and I'm anxious to get started. Seems I've seen so many movies its hard to enjoy them anymore, but I can't complain because it only cost 25 cents a month.
11/19/51	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	It rained this weekend and we had water in our compartment about 10 inches deep, it came down through the hatch. We finally put sand bags around it to keep the water out. Marge finally paid me the \$1 I won. I lost \$2 betting on U of W Saturday.
11/28/51	LST 898 At Sea	Good news to write for a change. As of today my leave chit was approved so I should be home on Friday, Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup> until Dec. 28th. I sent my first message out a day ago and got a roger right away too, even though the sending was lousy. I was so scared I could hardly move. I also botched the same day that made the supervisor very mad. You can plan a memorial service for anytime during that period.
12/2/51	LST 898 San Diego	Boy I got a big batch of mail when we got to San Diego, about 10 letters, seems like I heard from almost everyone. I got an airline ticket and will leave 8 PM on Friday. The memorial service between football games (Boys Club) was really nice, thanks again to Elmo, [football coach] he has really been nice to our family.
12/4/51	LST 898 San Diego	Joe I want you to know that when I read your last letter you seem to have grown up all of a sudden. I hope that we can both be the best in our help for mother. A person doesn't realize just how much and well off he is until you get into a mingling of classes and the navy is a very good mixer. Many times after having had a discussion with the other fellows I just sat back and said what a wonderful life I have had. Joe I was very glad that you made the ABC all-Star team, an accomplishment I never achieved.



<p>1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the plane was the fresh air. It felt like I had been in a cocoon for hours. The sun was shining brightly, and the birds were chirping. I took a deep breath and felt a sense of peace. I had finally reached my destination.</p>	<p>1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the plane was the fresh air. It felt like I had been in a cocoon for hours. The sun was shining brightly, and the birds were chirping. I took a deep breath and felt a sense of peace. I had finally reached my destination.</p>	<p>1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the plane was the fresh air. It felt like I had been in a cocoon for hours. The sun was shining brightly, and the birds were chirping. I took a deep breath and felt a sense of peace. I had finally reached my destination.</p>
<p>2. The second thing I noticed was the beautiful view. The landscape was stunning, with rolling hills and a clear blue sky. I had heard that the view was amazing, and now I knew why. It was truly a sight to behold.</p>	<p>2. The second thing I noticed was the beautiful view. The landscape was stunning, with rolling hills and a clear blue sky. I had heard that the view was amazing, and now I knew why. It was truly a sight to behold.</p>	<p>2. The second thing I noticed was the beautiful view. The landscape was stunning, with rolling hills and a clear blue sky. I had heard that the view was amazing, and now I knew why. It was truly a sight to behold.</p>
<p>3. The third thing I noticed was the friendly people. The locals were so warm and welcoming. They had heard that I was a visitor and wanted to make sure I had a good experience. They showed me around the town and introduced me to their customs.</p>	<p>3. The third thing I noticed was the friendly people. The locals were so warm and welcoming. They had heard that I was a visitor and wanted to make sure I had a good experience. They showed me around the town and introduced me to their customs.</p>	<p>3. The third thing I noticed was the friendly people. The locals were so warm and welcoming. They had heard that I was a visitor and wanted to make sure I had a good experience. They showed me around the town and introduced me to their customs.</p>
<p>4. The fourth thing I noticed was the delicious food. The local cuisine was so tasty and unique. I had heard that the food was amazing, and now I knew why. It was a true culinary experience that I will never forget.</p>	<p>4. The fourth thing I noticed was the delicious food. The local cuisine was so tasty and unique. I had heard that the food was amazing, and now I knew why. It was a true culinary experience that I will never forget.</p>	<p>4. The fourth thing I noticed was the delicious food. The local cuisine was so tasty and unique. I had heard that the food was amazing, and now I knew why. It was a true culinary experience that I will never forget.</p>
<p>5. The fifth thing I noticed was the beautiful sunset. The sky was painted with vibrant colors, and the sun was setting over the ocean. It was a truly magical moment that I will cherish forever.</p>	<p>5. The fifth thing I noticed was the beautiful sunset. The sky was painted with vibrant colors, and the sun was setting over the ocean. It was a truly magical moment that I will cherish forever.</p>	<p>5. The fifth thing I noticed was the beautiful sunset. The sky was painted with vibrant colors, and the sun was setting over the ocean. It was a truly magical moment that I will cherish forever.</p>



## Korean War Journal

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
12/6/51	LST 898 San Diego	Tonight I am drunk with power—I am the senior radioman aboard—as you might have guessed I'm the only one on board. I hope I don't get fouled up on my leave, it worries me a lot. I don't like the idea of Wilma moving in with her mother. I know that Bobby wouldn't want it her to do that. In fact I know that he would want the baby to stay just as near the Keller's as possible. This way we might lose the baby and that's all we have left.
12/8/51	LST 898 San Diego	As usual I'm on watch. I'm suppose to arrive in Seattle around 5:30 AM, but you should check with the airline about 10 PM to make sure everything is okay. Just got a message for all the ships in San Diego, I have to make six copies for the other ships in our group.
12/28/51	LST 898 San Diego	[I evidently took the bus back to San Diego] I didn't sleep a wink on the bus all the way down. Everyone was sacked out, but oh no, not me. I didn't want to miss anything, and I didn't. It didn't take long to get back in the swing of things. It was 10 hours after getting on the ship that I had a paint brush in my hand. Looks like I'll be on the ship during New Year's eve, but I don't care, I'll probably be asleep by midnight. I solved the puzzle by the time I got to Portland. It takes about fifty moves. [No idea what kind of puzzle I was solving.]

## My Travels in 1951

Date	Location	Miles at Sea
1/10-3/15	USNTC	
3/16-4/8	On Leave	
4/8-8/5,	Radio School, USNTC	
8/6-9	Amphibious Base, San Diego,	
8/10-17	LST 762, San Diego	
8/18-27	LST 762, At Sea	2,000
8/28-11/19	LST 898, Pearl Harbor	
11/20-12/2	LST 898, At Sea	2,000
12/2-12/8,	LST 898, San Diego	
12/9-28,	On Leave	
12/29-31	LST 898, San Diego	
Total Miles:		4,000



Section 10

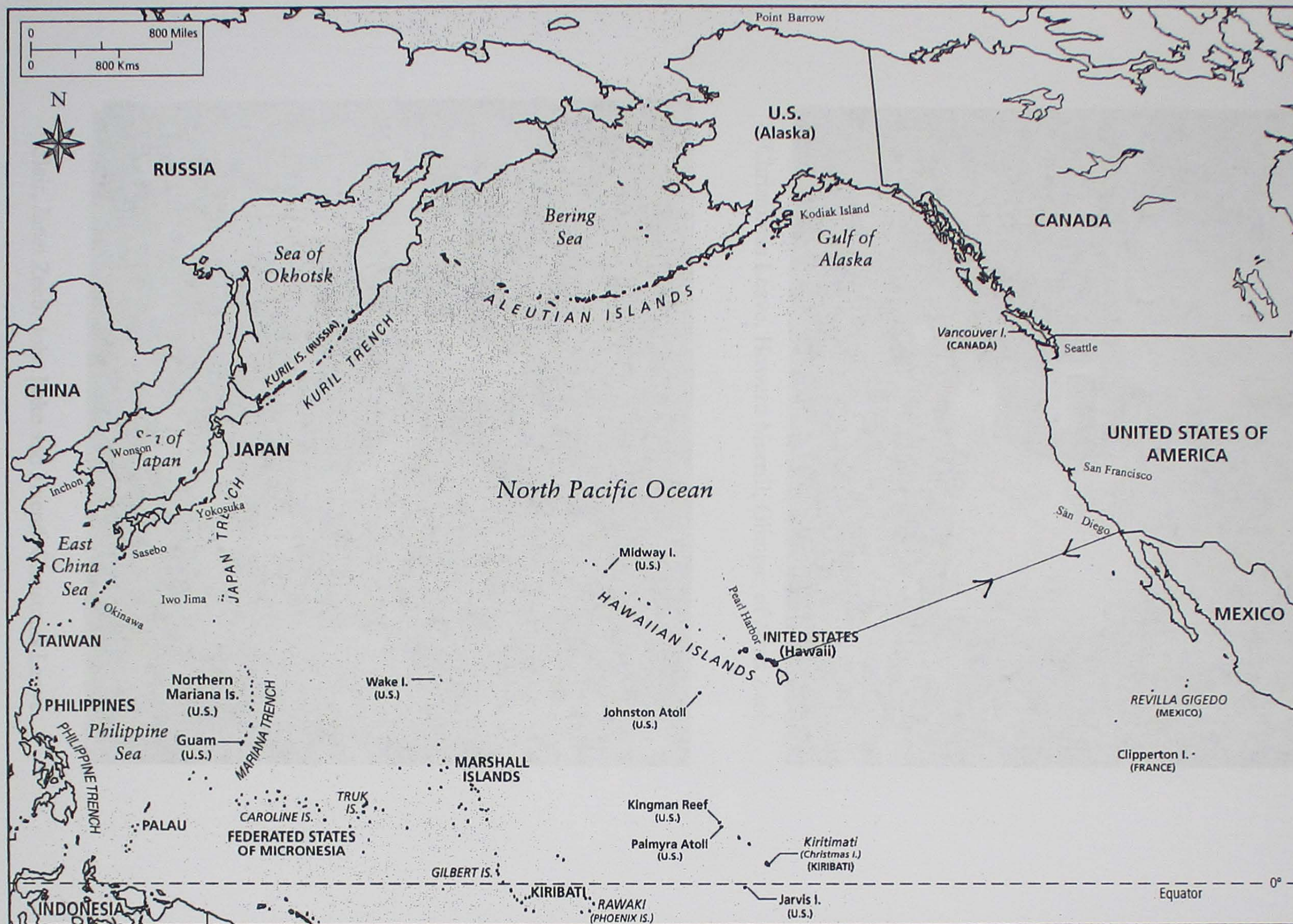
10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
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10-31	10-31	10-31	10-31

Section 11

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11-31	11-31	11-31	11-31



# North Pacific











Christmas Leave, Howard Morrill, Glimpse of Janet Zeeb,

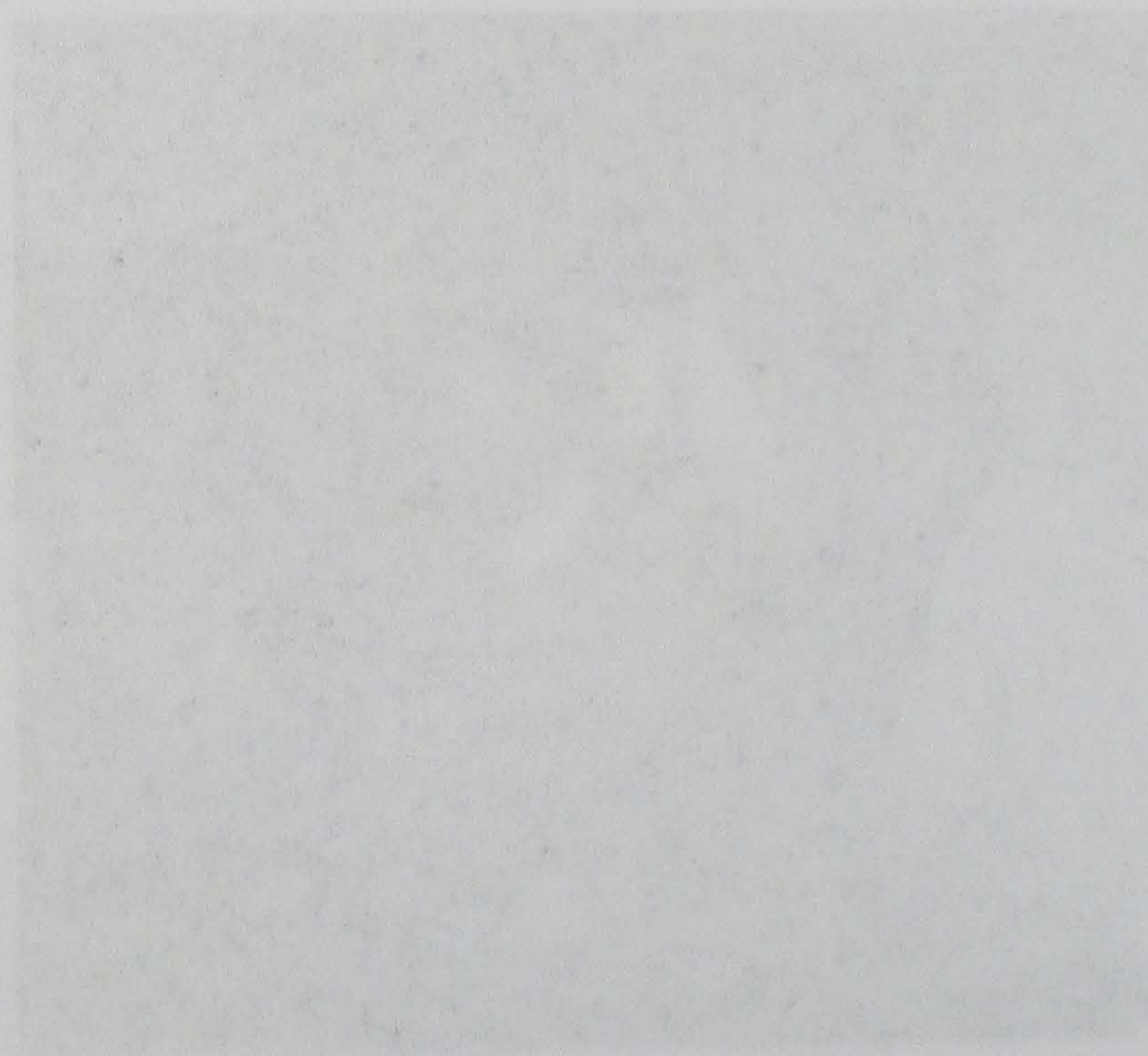


Clair, Janet Zeeb, John Lake and Friend, Christmas Leave





Christmas Eve, Howard North, Group of four men.



Christmas Eve, Howard North, Group of four men.



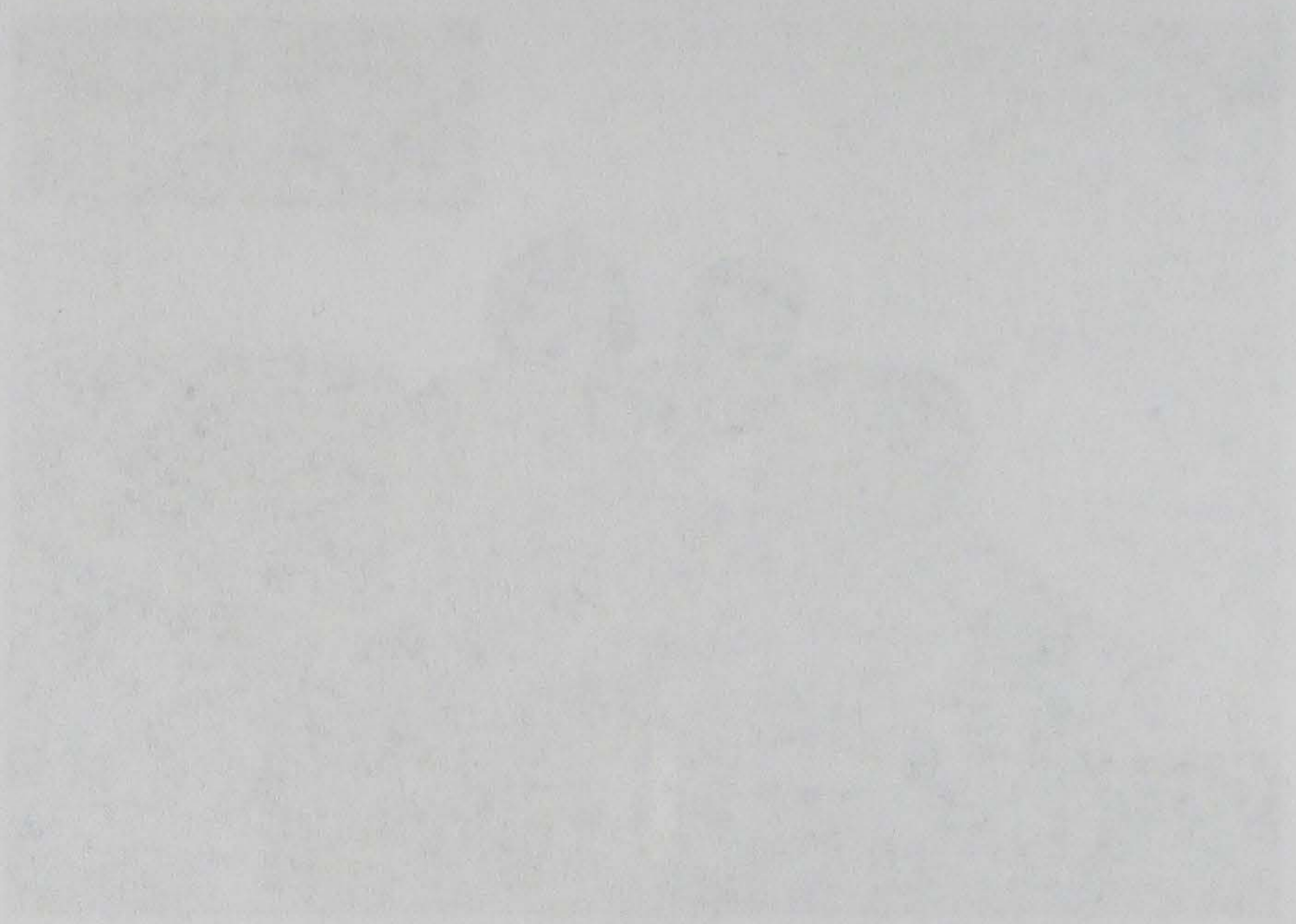
Justine and Delores Hunter, During Christmas Leave





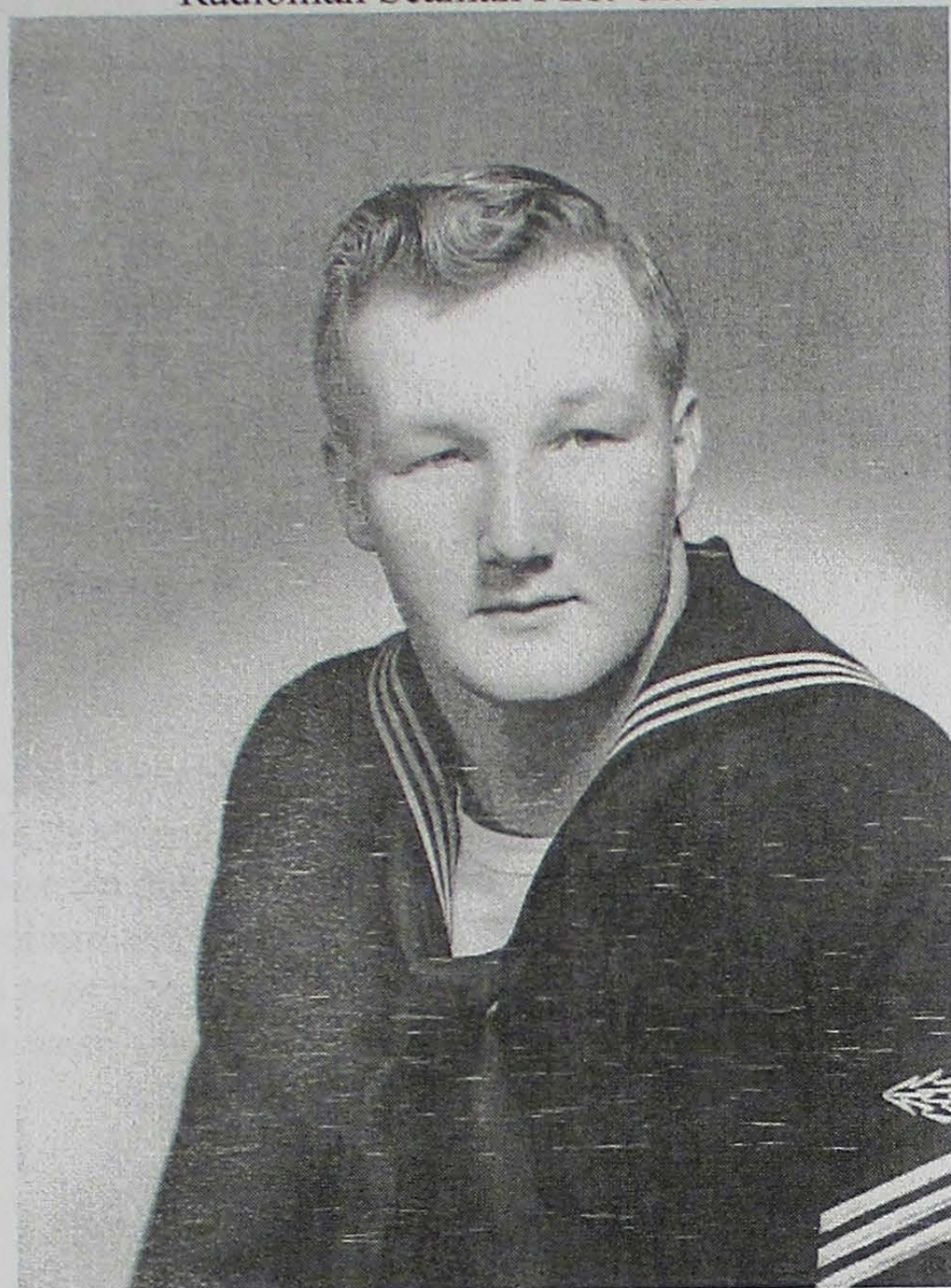
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

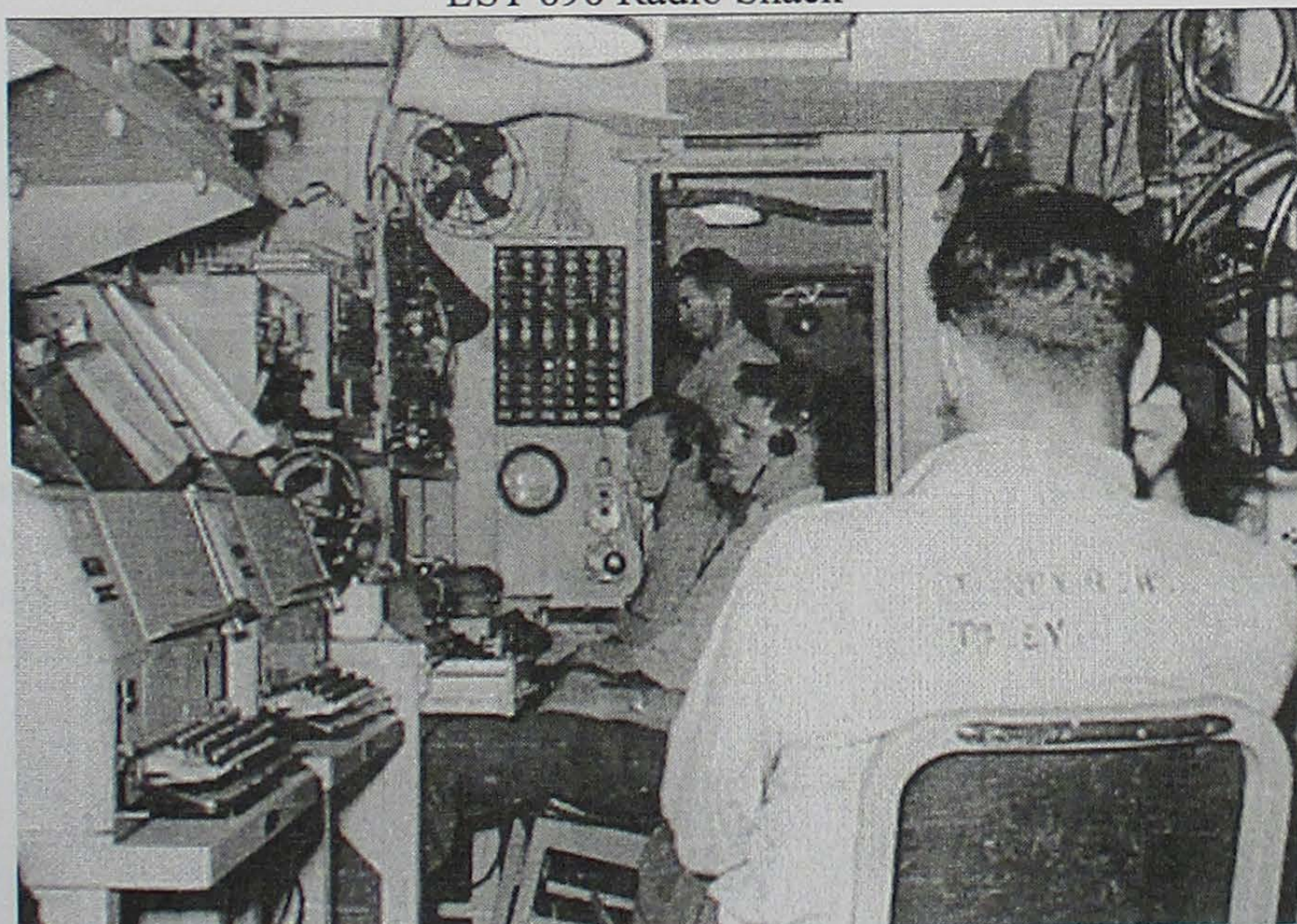




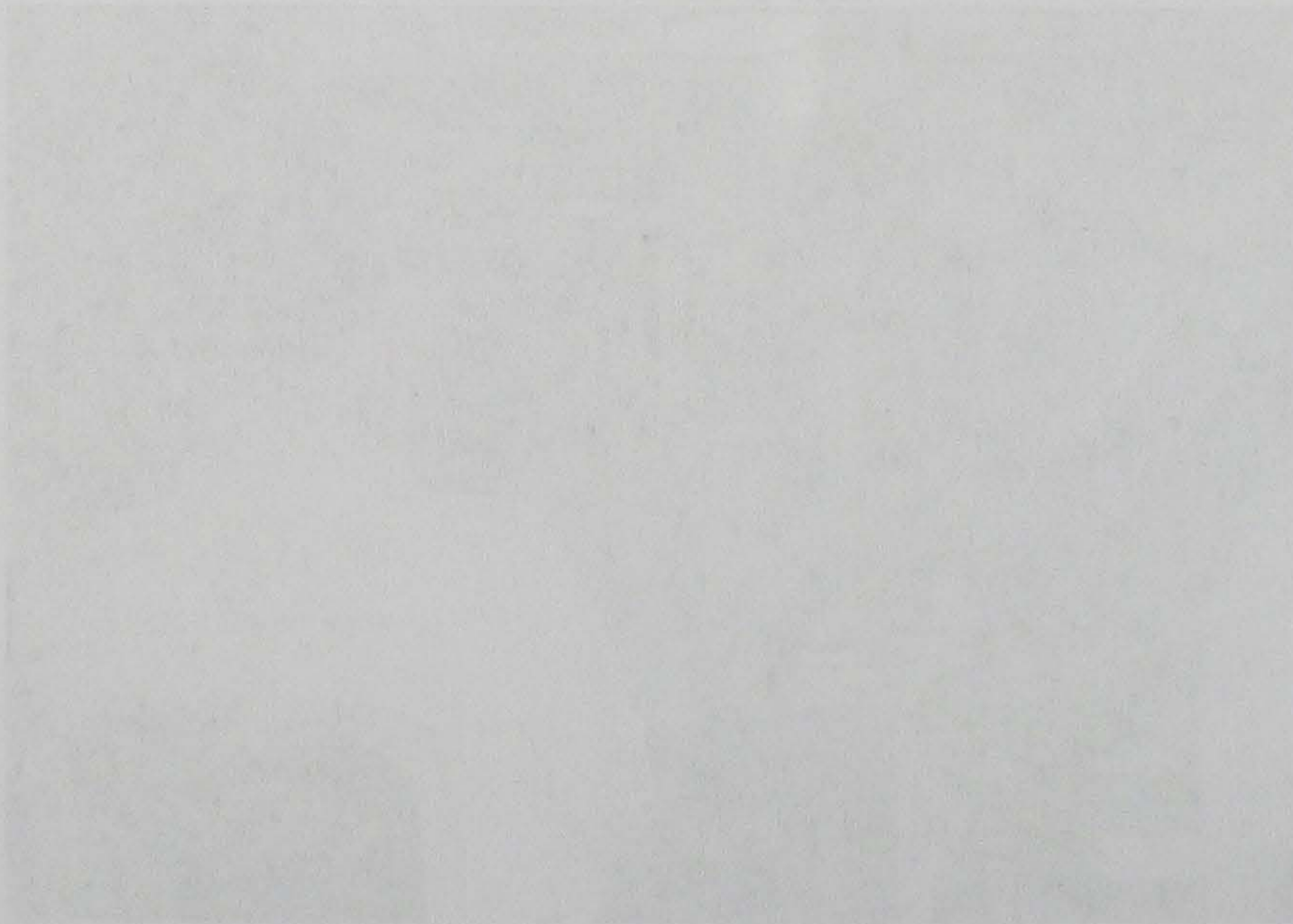
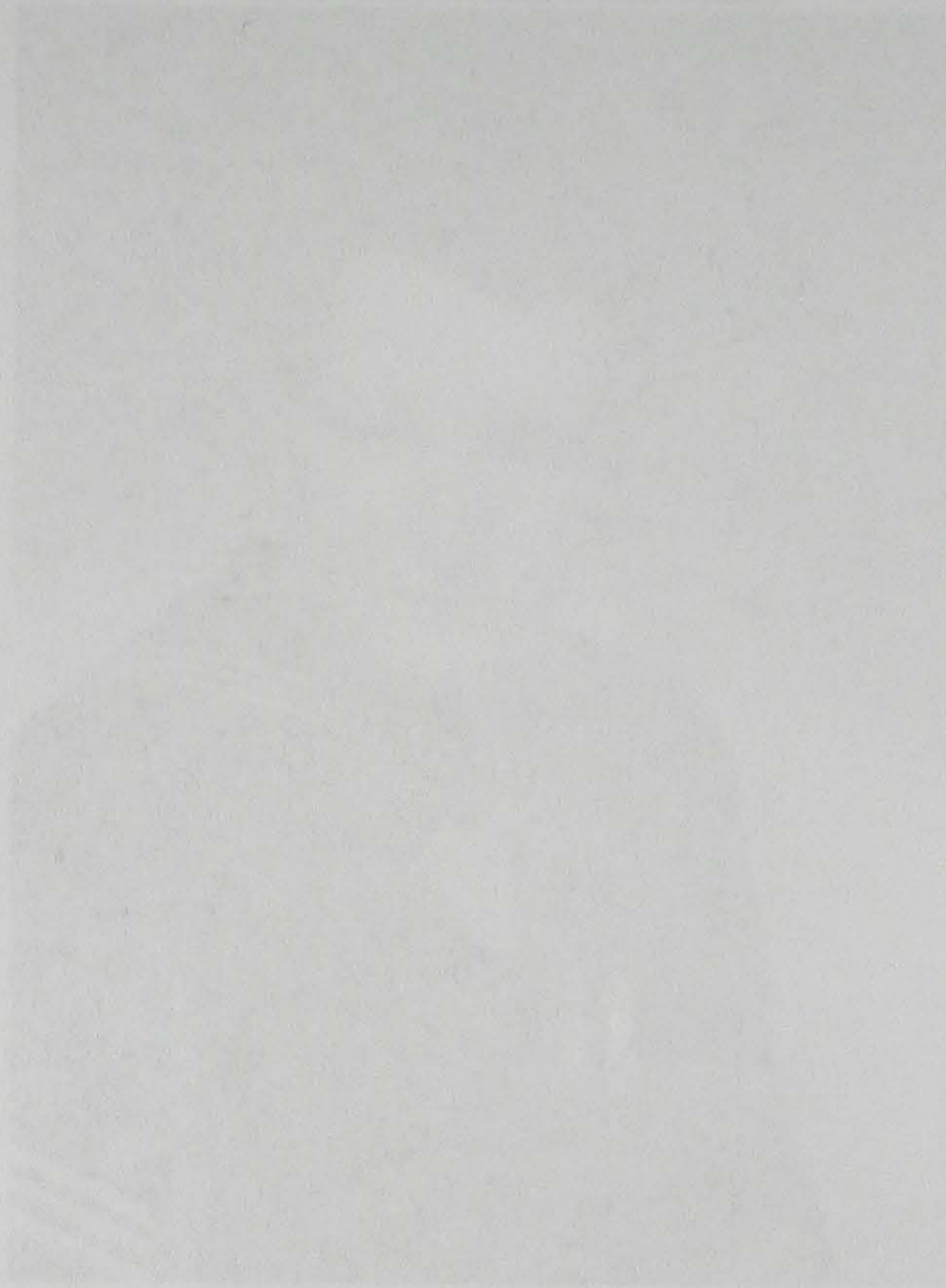
Radioman Seaman First Class



LST 898 Radio Shack









Other poems written while on watch in 1951 [Its obvious I had nothing else to do]

You

My eyes are closed and yet I see you

My arms are bound and yet I hold you

My lips are sealed and yet I kiss you

My heart is broken and yet I love you

Desires

My one desire could be

To climb a mountain or swim the sea

To see the world aboard a plane

To die a hero and yet remain

But no desire could ever be true

If for one moment I wasn't with you

Adrift

Imagine yourself adrift in a sea of trouble

Your life boat lost memories

Your course despair

Reach out and never touching

Seeking and never find

Loving and never being loved

And still you drift

Until your problem become too enormous

The sea enrages as to swallow you

Then becomes calm

Your problem is solves

Your lifeboat becomes faith and hope

Your course happiness



Answer

I followed the passage through the pages of time  
In search of the answer I now put to myself

The points of history has told us the story  
Of men who died in their strive for glory

The city of Troy across the sea did stand  
To challenge a Achilles the Greek's finest man

The beauty of Helen did serve as the bait  
For the person knew that sealed his fate

No hands were strong enough to bind his arms  
Still Hector was helpless before Achilles' charms

The power of Rome could not withstand  
Anthony could live in a desert land

To follow history and what do we learn  
The price to pay for a lover's yearn

The only answer of history seems to be  
That love is a treasure and death the key



## To Be a Poet

How to wish that I was only a poet, for then I would  
pluck words from the heavens above, and spread them  
before you like a velvet carpet befalls a princely  
throne. Then one moment we would be whisked away  
into a land of dreams where you would be my queen  
and I our king.

But like I say, I am no poet, for if I were

You would stand before me like an impregnable mountain  
Stands before the eyes of the world, defiant and angry  
As men etch there way up her sides until finally she  
hurls upon them with all the laws of nature and they  
flee her slopes. Yet God created nothing unconquerable,  
for once conquered men no longer hear her defiant  
whims, she becomes tender and sweet, but still a queen.

But as I say I am no poet for then I would lay memories  
Of the past before you like a giant treasure chest,  
Heaped to overflowing with all the joys and cares we  
Shared together.

But like I say, I am no poet.



To the 1st

It is to wish that I was with a friend who had  
 such words for the heart as yours, and would that  
 I could have a friend who would be a friend  
 to me, like you, and who would be a friend  
 to me, like you, and who would be a friend  
 to me, like you.

But like I say, I am no poet, I am no poet.

You would think that I was a poet, but I am not.  
 I am a poet, but I am not a poet, I am not a poet.  
 I am a poet, but I am not a poet, I am not a poet.  
 I am a poet, but I am not a poet, I am not a poet.  
 I am a poet, but I am not a poet, I am not a poet.  
 I am a poet, but I am not a poet, I am not a poet.

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 I am a poet, but I am not a poet, I am not a poet.  
 I am a poet, but I am not a poet, I am not a poet.  
 I am a poet, but I am not a poet, I am not a poet.

But like I say, I am no poet, I am no poet.



## Korean War Journal, 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
1/1/52	LST 898 San Diego	I'm listening to the Rose Bowl game. I have a big interest because I made a \$1 bet. Ushered in the New Year by lying in the sack. I've spent most of my time practicing for the third class test to be held on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of January. I plan on starting my correspondence courses from the U of W. Marian Coglas [Tom's sister] sent me a letter and said Tom's letters to me have been returned because he has the wrong address.
1/6/52	LST 898 San Diego	I have been studying for my 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rate test on Tuesday. I'll try to see Tommy [Perry] when he comes back to San Diego. Pat [Perry, my cousin] should have that kid by now. Here's some more money to put away, not for a fur coat, but for the future house of mine.
1/14/52	LST 898 San Diego	There is good news in the air tonight. We are going to San Francisco before shoving off to Guam. I'll be able to see Janet [Zeeb] again before going across the Pacific. It didn't take very long to have Bobby's body brought home.
1/15/52	LST 898 San Diego	Its pay day so we have a little money to burn and believe me it doesn't take long to go through your wad. Right now I'm on watch, I really enjoy the 8-12 because you can listen to real good music. That way I can practice the dance steps I have learned. As for my dancing lessons I am very pleased. I have 5 hours in so far and last night I jittered bugged for the first time in my life. I went to a dance place last night. It took me a long time to get up courage enough to ask someone to dance. I did and it was really great. I am planning to buy a suit tomorrow, I think a light gray flannel, two button roll, finger tip length and a pair of blue suede shoes. We were out on our operational readiness inspection today. Boy did everything go wrong. We were stuck on the beach for about 3 hours. We needed another ship to help us get off. In the radio shack everything didn't work right. Our ship hasn't done a thing right. It's pretty funny feeling I have now. Seems like I don't have a thing to look forward to. Just seem to live day to day.







## Korean War Journal: 1952,.

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
1/23/52	LST 898 San Diego	Last weekend I was able to get up to Los Angeles and see Alice & Neal. I rode up there with the Chief. Missed my train coming back so waited around, went to a movie, then caught a ride back with the Chief. We are going to see a lot of the Pacific: Pearl, Guam, Philippines & Japan. Don't worry about a little "Janet" right now. You have big ears.—Where did you get all that scoop. I know you just shut your ears. Ha! Little "Janet" wow! I got letters from Tommy C. and Hank L. Missed Tom Perry.
1/29/52	LST 898 Oakland, CA	Well this is San Francisco, the city of many hills and bridges. I didn't go on the beach and see Janet. It seems I know my way around Oakland pretty well by now. I've spent about \$5 on bus fares. Saturday night Janet and I went to China Town, ate supper at the "Cathay House" then saw a movie "I want you".[Detailing effects of the Korean war on a small-town family.] Mom please don't see it, please take my advice. Sunday night we went out on a double date with one of my buddies. Some friends of the Zeebs are going to take me around when I get to Pearl Harbor. Joe told me about quitting high school and working full-time at Eastman Kodiak. I wanted him to graduate from Lincoln. 1 for 3 isn't a good average.
2/3/52	LST 898 At Sea	We took on 90 passengers who are going for Pearl Harbor. It will be quite crowded during our trip. We'll be at Pearl for 6 days. The weather since we left San Francisco has been very rough. Every once in a while this thing goes over and the whole radio shack tumbles down on me. I'm on watch from 7 AM to 1700 (5 PM), it's a long 10 hrs. I've spent a lot of my spare time trying to write on my book. I'm starting Chapt. Three.
2/7/52	LST 898 At Sea	No watch tonight. Last night I was on midnight to 7 AM. The teletype broke down and had to copy everything by hand. Tomorrow we have target practice. I like it, I suppose it's that cowboy instinct carried over from the backyard games that Tommy and I use to do.







Date	Location	Activities and Comments
2/11/52	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	Just came back from church which I enjoyed vary much except for the sermon. Being use to John Soltman has kind of spoiled me I guess. Went on Liberty, it makes a difference when you're 20. We had supper at a place where you could get a 7 course meal for \$1 and that included a martini. We went to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and brought a couple of drinks. It was quite a thrill hob-knobbing with millionaires. Tried to make out with three women, and probably could have if there hadn't been for a slight misunderstanding. [No idea what that was.] The prune bread was great. We go up to the radio shack, fix a pot of tea and eat prune bread. Tell Joe not to get "shook" over his little problems.—He should try to get the best out of his school work.
2/13/52	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	Since I don't have any money, it's pretty hard to do anything, in fact its impossible. Today some of my buddies and I borrowed a monopoly game from one of the officers so we have been playing all afternoon. I guess I'm going on my second childhood. This week it is my turn to have compartment cleaning. The exec. Officer said that my compartments were the best on the ship, then the 1 <sup>st</sup> . Lt. said my head [toilet] was the best, so I got plenty of points. Boy do I dread the 17 days to Guam. Poor sis [next door neighbor], she never gets a good break except maybe a bone or two. Tell her I hope it heals fast.
2/17/52	LST 898 At Sea, Pearl to Guam	I was glad to hear that you all went to church. I went last Sunday too, for the first time in about two months. I guess your better at going to church than I am if you can remember a sermon. Usually I can't wait for it to end. If I pray, it's "Please God make this sermon real short." I'm still writing on my book, every once in a while I write a page or two. I'm just introducing the woman into the minister's life. She's married so you can see the possible complications. It's getting hotter every day, it's so bad you can even begin to sleep. We are going to cross the international date line tomorrow. We go to bed on Wed. and wakeup on Fri. Today is George Washington's birthday so we had a holiday routine. I love to go out on deck and look at the stars. I enjoyed watching stars as a kid. I saw them as goals in life, so I picked one and made it a life goal. .







Date	Location	Activities & Comments
2/25/52	LST 898 At Sea Pearl to Guam	We no longer can use the teletype because we lost the signal. We have to use G-FOX broadcast from Guam which operates at 25 words per minutes, I can't copy that fast very well so it will be a struggle. I just pray nothing comes over for us. I am able to pick up a radio broadcast from Japan, right now I'm listening to a symphony. I seem to be able to write a lot more on my book. I guess its because I've introduced Carolyn into the picture. Romance is always interesting.
3/1/52	LST 898 Near Guam	I hate this ship...not the ship of the guys because the guys in our gang are great. But I hate one man, Mr. Cox, who is our new executive officer. He has this ship with as much regulation as boot camp. We get lots of extra duty.
3/4/52	LST 898 Guam	We have a tropical routine since being at Guam. You get up at 5:15 one hour earlier and work till 12:15, then have the rest of the day off. It's better because it is cool in the morning. Each afternoon our ship has a beer party. It costs 75 cents and you get all the beer you can drink, pop too. We go out to one of the beaches here on the island. We play horseshoes, football, volleyball, swim, and just lay around in the sun and tan. We threw one of the officers into the water, clothes and all. He was drunk. He said he didn't care as long as his beer didn't get wet. My courses were here when I arrived, so I am glad to start on them. The English is really what I need. We have an English College Professor on board, I was talking to him and he said he would be glad to help me. You are right about room and board being a weapon for school. I bet Joe just fumes when you cut the money out of his pay check. I feel sorry for Dick Bonnelle [A boyhood friend] and his health. I blame the whole thing on his foolish fanatic religion. It doesn't do any good to worry ourselves to death and get emotionally upset over religion.
3/9/52	LST 898 At Sea Guam to Japan	We left Gaum Wednesday after loading ammo all morning. I've been working on my English course. I want to get my first lesson in by the time I get to Japan. It feels good to be working at something constructive again







Date	Location	Activities and Comment
3/11/52	LST 898 Yokosuka , Japan	We are finally at Yokosuka. It's cold here, about 38 degrees. We have to convert U.S. money into military script, then exchange that for Yen, about 360 yen per \$1. Right now the harbor has as many ships as in San Diego. The Captain made a speech this morning. He told us that we were here in Japan under different circumstances than before. We were here by agreement with the Japanese government, not as conquerors. We should not act like some have in the past.
3/13/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	We went on Liberty to Yokohama. The place here looks the same all over, run down and colorless. But it is interesting. Japanese beer is really good. It puts old Emil Sick [A Seattle brewer] out in the cold. We took the train to Yokohama, it costs about 75 cents. The train was very modern.
3/16/52	LST 898 Yokosuka , Japan	Your letters finally got here. It would be good to watch television, all we have is Arm Forces Radio Service which is pretty good. It has a variety of programs and music, but best of all it has no commercials. I hope that sis gets herself a good man, seems that anyone that works that hard in her life surely deserves a good husband. I guess Joe and Shirley will never split up. It must be love. Well we are all fools part of the time any way. What would John Soltman say if he knew that you were giving gambling money to the church. He'd probably wish you better luck. If the church had to rely on the earnings from the money I won, they would soon close the doors. It was nice for you to meet Hank's mother. He should be home on leave by now. Hank says he's going to stop by and beat you at a game of Pinochle.
3/17/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	Went into town yesterday and walked and walked all day. We really got into where the people lived. The roads turned into paths and soon it ended in someone's backyard. All Japan seems to be built on hills with valleys between. The little kids, who are really cute, but dirty, came up and would say "Ah-so Joe". They are really friendly. We enjoy bargaining with the shop keepers. If we don't leave this place tomorrow Jordan and I are going to Yokohama and see a couple of girls we know there.







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
3/23/52	LST 898 Sokcho Hang to Inchon, Korea	Well we finally made it, I mean no Income Tax for the month of March. Just think ten dollars saved. We got a message to get underway by 1 AM, just three hours away. Those on liberty would return by midnight, but seven of the crew had over night passes. The executive officer went over and rounded all of them up but two. The next day was the roughest seas I had ever been in. All we could do in the radio shack was hang on. My little friend Joe Jordan fell flat on his face and cut his lip all up. The doc put 4 stitches in it. Finally made it to our destination. Pulled some Marines off the beach to take them to Inchon. The Marines think they are living like kings compared to what they have been through. They just drove 90 miles in 14 hours from the lines. I guess they haven't slept on a mattress or eaten a good meal for months. It will take us four days to get to Inchon.
3/25/52	LST 898 Sokcho Ri to Inchon	The poor marines were not able to enjoy the food since most seemed to be sea sick. We had the roughest weather I've ever experienced, with about a thirty degree roll. We'll be lucky if the doors don't come off the ship since there are begin held by one dog wrench and a chain. We haven't been paid for a month. Just had a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. Goes good on the mid-watch. I get to send these letters free. Free mail and no income tax, everyone's dream.
3/27/52	LST 898 Inchon, Korea	I had four letters from you in the last mail call. It was really swell to hear from home. We let the Marines off today. I didn't hear any complaints so I guess they were glad. They loaded their tanks on flat cars and shipped them to the front lines. Big break, getting to go from front lines on the west to front lines on the east. I saw South Korean soldiers this morning on our LST. Somehow it just made me sick to see them. They don't have to worry about going home to anything because there's not much left. They seem to be like sheep. We were almost the same place the ship landed during the Inchon invasion in 1951. They have a 35 foot tide here.



Date	Location	Notes
1951 May 15	Kuala Lumpur Kuala Lumpur	<p>Visited the Kuala Lumpur Zoo. The animals were very tame. The keeper told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers. The keeper also told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers. The keeper also told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers.</p>
1951 May 16	Kuala Lumpur Kuala Lumpur	<p>Visited the Kuala Lumpur Zoo. The animals were very tame. The keeper told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers. The keeper also told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers. The keeper also told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers.</p>
1951 May 17	Kuala Lumpur Kuala Lumpur	<p>Visited the Kuala Lumpur Zoo. The animals were very tame. The keeper told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers. The keeper also told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers. The keeper also told me that the animals were very tame because they were used to being handled by the keepers.</p>



Date	Location	Activities & Comments
4/1/52	LST 898 Inchon to Yokosuka	<p>Since leaving Yokosuka I've been on watch continuously 4 on, 8 off. Here's our future plans. We stay in Yokosuka for a week, then go to Okinawa to practice some landings then be back here around the first of May. We are scheduled to return to San Diego around the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. We had a big administrative inspection last Friday (March 28<sup>th</sup>). We were so good that the Captain gave us Holiday routine from Friday afternoon to Tuesday morning. We still stood 8 hr. watches. Well I got two months income tax free. We made it by about 10 hours, so I can't complain. It's rumored that we delayed sailing for a few hours and then almost backed down in order to make it. Heck where else can we earn \$10 so quick. We are going to have a ship's party when we get to Yokosuka. I'm looking forward to my 3<sup>rd</sup>. rate test in July. I'm going to pass this one. [Evidently didn't pass the one I took in October, 1951.] When I get that rank I won't have to do a number of extra activities they give us. Mr. Cox [Exec. Officer] came up to the chart house while I was on watch. He said "Keller if you don't make third in July I'm going to kick you in the butt." I told him I would do it to myself. He said when I get through there won't be anything left.</p>
4/4/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	<p>We're suppose to get a months pay tomorrow although they owe us a little more. I know how you save money now, they just don't pay you. Saturday my little buddy, Joe Jordan, and I are going to Yokohama. My little buddy reminds me of Joe so much, I guess that is why I like him so much. He is always telling me his problems, women trouble of course. He wanted me to go on liberty last night, but I said no because someone else said he would go with him. He came in last night and woke me up and said he owed me a \$1 because he drank. We have a contract that if either of us drinks, we pay the other guy a dollar. So far I'm ahead of him. I finally got my book from the U of W so now I can start working on my college degree. I kind of like to do a little hard study once in a while.</p>



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## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
4/8/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	I have several letters to write: John Soltman, Mr. Morrill, Delores Hunter. We're suppose to leave for Okinawa Thursday and they say we'll be gone a month. We went over the side to the water and found the only way to get back up was to climb up a rope. About $\frac{3}{4}$ the way up I got stuck. After about half the crew grabbing on to some part of me, I finally made it. That went over big. Went on liberty and ran into some guys from Radio School. I'm going to buy some Japanese toys to send for Linda. I'm worried that dad will want to play with them. I know that happens because when we bring them on the ship everyone wants to play with them.
4/13/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	Just got back from church, it was nice and reminded me so much of home. I finished my first lesson with the U of W, so I now consider myself a college man. Maybe someday I can get a degree. I had a conversation with one of the girls over here. Among some of the things she told me was about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Her family was killed there and she had some little burns. The remarkable thing is she expressed no bitterness or hatred because of it. I find the same thing in evidence everywhere. I am thankful that our government has handled the postwar situation in one of the finest achievements in the history of the world. No other country has recovered so well either.
4/16/52	LST 898 Yokosuka to Okinawa	I am planning to devote more and more of my time to my studies, guess maybe that's the best way to stay out of trouble. Started studying for the third class exams in July so that's another iron in the fire. In about a month there won't be any radiomen here. Just Joe, who is First Class, and myself. I already have the responsibility of a Third Class so I might as well get paid for it. Boy how I would like to play a game of tennis, its been years since I've moved around. Got a letter from Tommy Coglas who didn't say anything except how to get in touch with him if we ever get to Pusan.







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
4/16/52	LST 898 Yokosuka to Okinawa	[A letter to my brother Joe] I hate to be at sea because we have to stand so many watches. A 4 hour watch every 8 hours. When I go on watch I have to listen to code for four hours straight. At Okinawa we are going to play war games with the army. I was, of course, very disappointed that you quit Lincoln, but glad that you are continuing at Edison. If you don't finish high school you'll always regret it. To me the graduation ceremony was worth the four years of effort. Even now I feel a certain pride in myself when I hear the graduation music. Here is my advice on joining the service. If you join a company like Kodiak when you are young, you get yourself embedded in its organization, then your chances of security are really good. If you want to play war then join the reserve and volunteer for active service. That way you won't have to sign your life away. Four years is a long time. Second, stay out of the army or marines. Join the navy or Air Force.
4/18/52	LST 898 Yokosuka to Okinawa	[Another Ltr. To brother Joe] Thought I would write a little more on our letter and try not to preach any sermons this time. I plan on buying you a fishing outfit when I get back to Japan. They are pretty nice. I wonder if dad would want one?
4/20/52	LST 898 At Okinawa	Today I went over for a few hours between watches and got a glimpse of another part of the world. Today I saw the typical oriental farm community. The fields were beautiful and, except for the hills, reminded me of the Japanese farmers around Seattle. I couldn't help but feel a certain pity for these people whose entire life may never get beyond just existing. It's times like these that I want to get down on my knees and thank God for my heritage. Everywhere on the island there is evidence of the war. Pill boxes made out of re-enforced steel are all over the hills. Finally got my first English lesson back from the USAFI. Received an 88 on it. The teacher gave me a compliment on my paper. She said I "had something to say, and said it in a lively way. She also said I got tied up in words. "



Date	Page	Text
1911	101	<p>I have been thinking of you a great deal lately. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you a great deal lately. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.</p>
1912	102	<p>I have been thinking of you a great deal lately. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you a great deal lately. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.</p>
1913	103	<p>I have been thinking of you a great deal lately. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you a great deal lately. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.</p>



## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
4/24/52	LST 898 Okinawa	We are getting ready to practice amphibious landings. Right now we have 20 or so tanks loaded on the tank deck, plus their crews, a total of 106. Today I made many points. I took a message down to the Exec. Officer. He was chewing out the supply officer for the bad chow. He asked me what I thought "Not very good Sir", I said. Then my buddy Joe Jordan came in and he asked him, "not worth a dam Sir," he said. If you hear anything about the GI Bill for Korean Vets, let me know.
4/27/52	LST 898 Okinawa	We're about done with these amphibious operations then we head for Japan. We will be there for about three days, then go to Sasebo. They took our cameras away from us so I couldn't take any pictures of Okinawa. We're taking about 150 troops back to Japan, so things will be crowded around here.
4/29/52	LST 898 Okinawa	We're getting ready to leave for Japan. Boy are we loaded. We've got 16 LVT'S, 1 LUPT, 8 jeeps, 6 trailers, 5 big trucks, 1 ambulance, 1 crane truck plus About 150 soldiers. Got another lesson back today. I didn't do as well as the last time, only an 84. My grade went down on the essay.
5/4/52	LST 898 Yokosuka	Got my first lesson back from the U of W and they gave me a B. Probably only gave me a B because I disagreed with them on a couple of pts. Last night in Okinawa I really found out what having a buddy means. Joe Jordan came back to the ship, really drunk. When I got off watch I went down to the compartment and found him throwing up all over the place. He couldn't even stand up he was so drunk. Eventually I put him in a cold shower. He woke up on a cot in the middle of the deck the next morning and couldn't even remember what happened.



Date	Time	Remarks
April 20, 1954	1:15 PM	<p>Left the house at 1:15 PM. The weather was clear and sunny. We went to the store and bought some groceries. Then we went to the bank and deposited some money. After that, we went to the post office and mailed some letters. We then went to the library and borrowed some books. Finally, we went to the park and had a picnic. We stayed there until 5:30 PM and then went home.</p>
April 21, 1954	1:15 PM	<p>Left the house at 1:15 PM. The weather was clear and sunny. We went to the store and bought some groceries. Then we went to the bank and deposited some money. After that, we went to the post office and mailed some letters. We then went to the library and borrowed some books. Finally, we went to the park and had a picnic. We stayed there until 5:30 PM and then went home.</p>
April 22, 1954	1:15 PM	<p>Left the house at 1:15 PM. The weather was clear and sunny. We went to the store and bought some groceries. Then we went to the bank and deposited some money. After that, we went to the post office and mailed some letters. We then went to the library and borrowed some books. Finally, we went to the park and had a picnic. We stayed there until 5:30 PM and then went home.</p>
April 23, 1954	1:15 PM	<p>Left the house at 1:15 PM. The weather was clear and sunny. We went to the store and bought some groceries. Then we went to the bank and deposited some money. After that, we went to the post office and mailed some letters. We then went to the library and borrowed some books. Finally, we went to the park and had a picnic. We stayed there until 5:30 PM and then went home.</p>



## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
5/7/52	LST 898 Sasebo, Japan	Boy did you pick a hard item, the rice linen table cloth, for me to find. I went to every toxsau {No idea what this is} stores in Yokosuka, but no luck. I got Joe a fishing pole. What does dad want? We are going to be in Korean waters again in order to avoid income taxes. I think we will be in Sasebo for a couple of months. Got letters from John Soltman and Don Grinols. On the coming election. The worst thing right now would be to get a military man for President. My commanding officer said that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world, mothers, and mothers don't want a military man as President. [I'm not sure about his wisdom. My mother voted for Eisenhower while my dad, a union man, voted for Stevenson.]
4/12/52	LST 898 Sasebo, Japan	It is really beautiful this time of the year. Green all over just like Washington. The gardens on the hills are pretty also, like the ones they had down on the lower first avenue. We get paid Thursday, so I think I will try to buy you a rice linen tablecloth.
5/16/52	LST 898 Sasebo, Japan	Went into town last night. Went to a dance hall and danced for four hours. After I got the rust out it wasn't too bad. I think I've solved the problem with a rice table cloth, it is made from grass linen which comes from rice leaves. Would you like to get a tea set. It's rumored that we will leave for Pusan [Korea] this month. I hope so because I can see Tommy. Might go to Nagasaki or Hiroshima while I'm here. Would love to see the dark spots upon the American moral code of war.
5/27/52	LST 898 Sasebo, Japan	My kid radioman is sitting over here like the cat who swallowed the canary. He is getting a three month radio school here in Sasebo starting July 1. That shows how much there is a shortage of radiomen. We finally got a ship's store. We will be able to buy most items—soap, cigarettes, toothpaste, candy and eventually ice cream and cokes. We can also order items like watches. Went to church Sunday, the sermon had good background, but I didn't really enjoy it. I guess I just can get religion from a chaplain in uniform.







Date	Location	Activities and Comments
5/31/52	LST 898 Sasebo to Yokosuka	Unexpectedly we are out at sea. I went over Thursday afternoon to pickup Fox messages. Well I got a hot one, I rushed back to the ship and the communication officer translated it. We were suppose to get underway Wednesday, here it was Thursday. We got underway in about 3 hrs. I have to start studying for my 3rd class rate.
6/1/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	We are going to leave here tomorrow. About all we came to Yokosuka for was to load some supplies and pontoons. We don't have any idea what for.
6/8/52	LST 898 Inchon, Korea	Our ship had a baseball game against some Marines on the ship. We won, but I don't think I did much to help. If the Navy doesn't do anything else for me it's going to give me a finer appreciation of the simple things of life. Looks like I'm going to miss Tommy again. He's going to Japan on a six day leave and I'm in Korea. Right now I'm listening to a symphony, it's great to be able to get some good music once in a while. We play records every night but no one wants to listen to my kind of music.
6/13/52	LST 898 Inchon, Korea	[Evidently I hear that my brother Joe just got married] I wish someone would let some of these bombs that have been thrown at me during the last year, give just a little warning. I just about fell off my horse. It makes me the bachelor of the family. Well we always said that I was no lover We'll be here a month. All we do is train some marines for about three days and then lay in the harbor, then do it again. We played baseball again against two other ships, we won both games. We took along about six cases of beer to help the game along. It was our secret weapon, giving it to the other team until they couldn't stand up.







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
6/16/52	LST 898 Inchon, Korea	Today I got a letter dated May 20 <sup>th</sup> that explains a few things I didn't know. [Joe's marriage] What is done is done. All we can do now is hope and pray for the best. Don't worry about me yet. I don't know what ideas you have about Janet and I. Someplace it is all wrong. Don't build too much hope on me along that line. I've decided to get you a tea set. My code has improved some. I can copy George Fox which runs between 23 and 25 WPM. I hope you don't put the house up for sale. If you do then I hope you don't sell it. I just can't see living any place but Haller Lake. I am planted in Haller Lake from my feet to my heart. I see that the GI Bill is about ready to go through. We can get a \$7,500 loan at 4%, maybe I should have done find me a house that I can buy and rent out.
6/21/52	LST 898 Inchon, Korea	We've certainly been on the go since we left the states. I think we've spent as much time between ports as in ports. I got back two school lessons today and one from the USAFI. The ole bag gave me an 87 and the one from the U of W gave me a B-. Not so good, but better than nothing. I joined a book of the month club and selected these books: The Greatest Story Ever Written, The Caine Mutiny, The Silver Chalice. After I finish them I'm going to send them home. They are going to be the first copies of my library. I haven't received too much mail from the kids at home, except for Don Grinols who writes me once a week. [I still have these books.]
6/24/52	LST 898 Inchon, Korea	We are playing war games again, training Marines. I haven't had liberty for a month, except a beer party a week ago. I'm sending you an article titled: "I like being a teacher." I spend about half of my time just talking about how wonderful it is going to be when I can start school again. You can't imagine just how good it is to cling to an ambition. My buddy Joey said the other day: "you know Clair I just wonder what I'm going to do when I get out of the Navy." I feel lucky in having a definite aim in life. It may not be the greatest thing to do, but I can feel satisfied that I am doing my little bit toward making the world a better place to live in. I don't expect a third world war.



Lesson 11 - Review

Topic	Review Questions	Answers
1. The first part of the lesson was about the importance of the family. What are some of the things that the family can do for each other?	1. The first part of the lesson was about the importance of the family. What are some of the things that the family can do for each other?	1. The first part of the lesson was about the importance of the family. What are some of the things that the family can do for each other?
2. The second part of the lesson was about the importance of the church. What are some of the things that the church can do for each other?	2. The second part of the lesson was about the importance of the church. What are some of the things that the church can do for each other?	2. The second part of the lesson was about the importance of the church. What are some of the things that the church can do for each other?
3. The third part of the lesson was about the importance of the community. What are some of the things that the community can do for each other?	3. The third part of the lesson was about the importance of the community. What are some of the things that the community can do for each other?	3. The third part of the lesson was about the importance of the community. What are some of the things that the community can do for each other?
4. The fourth part of the lesson was about the importance of the world. What are some of the things that the world can do for each other?	4. The fourth part of the lesson was about the importance of the world. What are some of the things that the world can do for each other?	4. The fourth part of the lesson was about the importance of the world. What are some of the things that the world can do for each other?



## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
6/27/52	LST 898 Inchon, Korea	As usual I'm on watch, listening to music on the AFRS. Yesterday we had a little accident. They were hoisting our small boat aboard on the Davits and the Engine wouldn't stop. The cable broke throwing the boat into the water. Three men were hurt, not too seriously. It tore up part of the deck. Because of the accident we were delayed a day or two before leaving for Sasebo. I hate to see Arlene and Jack move. [They rented the basement of our house. Jack sent me lots of books] We have our third class tests next week. I'll be glad to get them over.
7/1/52	LST 898 Sasebo, Japan	I'm on the Chiefs mess cooking. My boss radioman, Joe, thought it would be good for me to do it, besides other guys are griping about it. It's not bad. You eat with the Chiefs. Get all the chow you want that week. I've sent a \$200 money order for you to put in my bank account.
7/2/52	LST 898 Sasebo, Japan	Still haven't gone on liberty, it seems I hardly care to go over anymore. I have my 3 <sup>rd</sup> rate class test next Tuesday. I should be able to pass the code this time. Our ETA for San Diego is 10 November. That's 17 days earlier than originally planned.
7/6/52	LST 898 Sasebo, Japan	Our ETA San Diego has been set earlier again, We're do to arrive Oct. 20. We'll leave Yokosuka on the 25 <sup>th</sup> of September. Joe, I'm afraid, will have to go into the service. The best thing for him to do would be to join one of the reserves, probably the Air Reserve would be best. Just finished playing catch with the Captain. He is about the best guy you could possibly have for a skipper. Last night several of us were talking politics. It's interesting to talk about intelligent subjects once in a while. I don't like Bobbie as a name for a girl. I prefer Carolyn or Karen.
7/11/52	LST 898 Sasebo, Japan	I want to get a letter off because we are going on a training exercises in Korea for 30 days and may not be able to send any mail. I went over this afternoon and mailed the china sent home for Joe and Shirley's wedding gift. It's a 53 piece set of Fugi china which ranks with Naritaki. Well my third class test is over and at least I passed the code test. We will get the final word in October. This trip will mean a lot of time on watch, 8 on, 8 off. We got another radioman but he won't be much help since he can't read code.



Korean War, 1950-1953

Ref	Country	Ref	Ref
01-103	Japan	1-1-1	1-1-1
01-104	Japan	1-1-2	1-1-2
01-105	Japan	1-1-3	1-1-3
01-106	Japan	1-1-4	1-1-4
01-107	Japan	1-1-5	1-1-5
01-108	Japan	1-1-6	1-1-6
01-109	Japan	1-1-7	1-1-7
01-110	Japan	1-1-8	1-1-8
01-111	Japan	1-1-9	1-1-9
01-112	Japan	1-1-10	1-1-10
01-113	Japan	1-1-11	1-1-11
01-114	Japan	1-1-12	1-1-12
01-115	Japan	1-1-13	1-1-13
01-116	Japan	1-1-14	1-1-14
01-117	Japan	1-1-15	1-1-15
01-118	Japan	1-1-16	1-1-16
01-119	Japan	1-1-17	1-1-17
01-120	Japan	1-1-18	1-1-18
01-121	Japan	1-1-19	1-1-19
01-122	Japan	1-1-20	1-1-20
01-123	Japan	1-1-21	1-1-21
01-124	Japan	1-1-22	1-1-22
01-125	Japan	1-1-23	1-1-23
01-126	Japan	1-1-24	1-1-24
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01-128	Japan	1-1-26	1-1-26
01-129	Japan	1-1-27	1-1-27
01-130	Japan	1-1-28	1-1-28
01-131	Japan	1-1-29	1-1-29
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01-134	Japan	1-1-32	1-1-32
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01-136	Japan	1-1-34	1-1-34
01-137	Japan	1-1-35	1-1-35
01-138	Japan	1-1-36	1-1-36
01-139	Japan	1-1-37	1-1-37
01-140	Japan	1-1-38	1-1-38
01-141	Japan	1-1-39	1-1-39
01-142	Japan	1-1-40	1-1-40
01-143	Japan	1-1-41	1-1-41
01-144	Japan	1-1-42	1-1-42
01-145	Japan	1-1-43	1-1-43
01-146	Japan	1-1-44	1-1-44
01-147	Japan	1-1-45	1-1-45
01-148	Japan	1-1-46	1-1-46
01-149	Japan	1-1-47	1-1-47
01-150	Japan	1-1-48	1-1-48
01-151	Japan	1-1-49	1-1-49
01-152	Japan	1-1-50	1-1-50
01-153	Japan	1-1-51	1-1-51
01-154	Japan	1-1-52	1-1-52
01-155	Japan	1-1-53	1-1-53
01-156	Japan	1-1-54	1-1-54
01-157	Japan	1-1-55	1-1-55
01-158	Japan	1-1-56	1-1-56
01-159	Japan	1-1-57	1-1-57
01-160	Japan	1-1-58	1-1-58
01-161	Japan	1-1-59	1-1-59
01-162	Japan	1-1-60	1-1-60
01-163	Japan	1-1-61	1-1-61
01-164	Japan	1-1-62	1-1-62
01-165	Japan	1-1-63	1-1-63
01-166	Japan	1-1-64	1-1-64
01-167	Japan	1-1-65	1-1-65
01-168	Japan	1-1-66	1-1-66
01-169	Japan	1-1-67	1-1-67
01-170	Japan	1-1-68	1-1-68
01-171	Japan	1-1-69	1-1-69
01-172	Japan	1-1-70	1-1-70
01-173	Japan	1-1-71	1-1-71
01-174	Japan	1-1-72	1-1-72
01-175	Japan	1-1-73	1-1-73
01-176	Japan	1-1-74	1-1-74
01-177	Japan	1-1-75	1-1-75
01-178	Japan	1-1-76	1-1-76
01-179	Japan	1-1-77	1-1-77
01-180	Japan	1-1-78	1-1-78
01-181	Japan	1-1-79	1-1-79
01-182	Japan	1-1-80	1-1-80
01-183	Japan	1-1-81	1-1-81
01-184	Japan	1-1-82	1-1-82
01-185	Japan	1-1-83	1-1-83
01-186	Japan	1-1-84	1-1-84
01-187	Japan	1-1-85	1-1-85
01-188	Japan	1-1-86	1-1-86
01-189	Japan	1-1-87	1-1-87
01-190	Japan	1-1-88	1-1-88
01-191	Japan	1-1-89	1-1-89
01-192	Japan	1-1-90	1-1-90
01-193	Japan	1-1-91	1-1-91
01-194	Japan	1-1-92	1-1-92
01-195	Japan	1-1-93	1-1-93
01-196	Japan	1-1-94	1-1-94
01-197	Japan	1-1-95	1-1-95
01-198	Japan	1-1-96	1-1-96
01-199	Japan	1-1-97	1-1-97
01-200	Japan	1-1-98	1-1-98
01-201	Japan	1-1-99	1-1-99
01-202	Japan	1-1-100	1-1-100



Date	Location	Activities and Comments
7/15 52	LST 898 Paengyong-Do [Islands off west coast of Korea above 38 <sup>th</sup> Parallel]]	We are training with the British this time. I think I would much rather operate with them than with our own ships. They really are willing to help you any way they can. I've been listening to the Republican Convention and glad Taft was nominated. [Not sure what I meant by that comment since Ike won the nomination.] I'm also a little scared of Ike. I don't want to spend my life in the Navy. Unless the Democrats pull someone out of the bag, he will be our best bet. After a party has been in power that long there are too many guys who find rackets to use up tax payer's money. New blood should at least make guys start from scratch. The Republicans I think will cut our spending down. Unless we do the country will soon become bankrupt. I've decided not to take a lot of correspondence courses from the U. of W because I don't get much out of them. I don't want to get low grades from correspondence courses when I can wait and get better grades later. I will take courses from the USAFI just to keep me in the swing of things. We're getting a new skipper when we get back to Yokosuka. I hate to lose the one we have now.
7/19/52	LST 898 Paengyong-Do	I sure get a bang out of working with the British, especially the radio part of it. They sure can come up with some real kicks. One thing I can say is that they are about as funny any body can be. Glad to see that Joe got his fishing pole initiated. Got a letter from Tommy, looks like I missed him in Japan again.
7/22/52	LST 898 Paengyong-Do	Now that the GI Bill is passed, I can't see getting too much done by correspondence because I am going to hurt my GPA and a person doesn't really learn an awfully lot either. Looks like the Demo's are having as bad a time at their convention as did the Republicans. Lots of hot air. In my book it will be Gov. Stephenson of Illinois. President Jefferson said that "in order to have as true democracy, a nation must have a revolution every 20 years, well its been 20 years now, so I'm ready for change."







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
7/25/52	LST 898 Paengyong-Do	I guess our house will be divided. 2/3s Republican and 1/3 Democratic. When you see Justin again you can call him a "fellow Republican." I personally feel that the Republican platform has a lot more to offer. We didn't get paid again. I don't think you could collect \$50 from the whole crew. The skipper announced over the PA system that any one wishing to borrow \$10 go to the ship's office. I have purchased 16 bonds so far. I also have an insurance policy which will be worth \$1500 in 15 years. One of the first things I'm going to do when I get discharged is go to a good men's store and put \$500 on the table and stay until I've spent every nickel.
7/30/52	LST 898 Paengyong-Do	It's another mid-watch. I'm getting tired of staying up all night. What I'd give to be able to sleep for a whole night, but I guess it will have to wait until the August 7 <sup>th</sup> when we arrive in Yokosuka. I'm reading the Caine Mutiny now. You can pick out the same instances that happens on any ship, i.e. "The Navy is a Master Plan—created by geniuses for execution by idiots." Received a letter from Justin, he is ready to come back from Alaska. I got two letters from Joe. He wrote them during work at Sears. He's just like me, writing letters on someone else's time. He said he gets \$2/hour.
8/4/52	LST 898 Paengyong-Do to Chinhae	We are now on our way to a little place between Koje-do (POW Camp) and Pusan. Today the Captain called us into his office and told us we were going to have a beer party on board ship to celebrate our first day of good weather. We spend a lot of time talking about what its going to be like when we get out. I think most of us want to go to school of some kind. We sit around by the hours and talk about how good it's going to be to walk on campus again. I don't think these four years have been wasted. When I start school it will be with a goal in life.
8/6/52	LST 898 Chinihai to Yokosuka	Yesterday was a very miserable day for me. I had my first toothache. I have a wisdom tooth coming through. So I will have to go to the dentist. I was wondering the other day if you are still saving my letters, I know there a nuisance to keep, but I was hoping you had. Just think if I'm ever famous someone can write "The Memories of Clair Keller."



Date	1971	1971
1971	1971	1971
1971	1971	1971
1971	1971	1971
1971	1971	1971



## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
8/9/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	<p>I purchased your Tea Set. It's made of Kutani china, egg-shell stuff. Your right that I should purchase my self some china. I can get 93 piece china set for \$25. Got mail yesterday, the first in two weeks. I got six letters from you. You should see the conning tower. We have eight junks painted on it. [I evidently didn't write about the engagement we had while patrolling for possible infiltrators from North Korea. At dusk we spotted some boats in a forbidden zone. We investigated them and got close enough to see them. The Captain sent a message to the British command that he saw them putting mines into the water. The British commander sent back a message: "Sink Them." So we opened fire with 40 mm. guns. Several junks were sunk, those who did make the island were killed by Korean troops. We found out later that these were South Korean fishing boats who were using 5 gallon tin cans to float their nets. Nevertheless the Captain had 8 fishing boats painted on the conning tower. Later, after the Captain was replaced, some of the WWII veterans painted over them before the new Captain could see them] They say that the negotiators have almost agree on all points of the armistice. I hope so, then maybe we won't have to come over here again.</p>
8/14/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	<p>Today we have a change of command ceremony. It shouldn't be too long. Just an inspection and then a little speech by the old and new Captains. I don't know what kind of a guy the new Capt. is but I don't think he could be much better than the one we have right now. He's probably the best that any ship in the fleet has. I went to Kama-Kure on my last liberty and took several pictures of the Buddha then went to Tokyo took pictures of the Imperial Palace. We are scheduled to go to northern Japan to conduct more training sessions.</p>







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
8/15/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	We were pulled from the operation in N. Japan, so we'll probably get another one in Korea. Glad to see that Hank Larson made the NROTC. When I get out of the Navy I want to stay out of it. There is absolutely nothing that the Navy could offer me that I would want, either as an enlisted man or an officer. Sure its good to be home for a couple of years, but then what, you have to two years as an officer and then after that you are in the reserve for the rest of your life. All right after I get back from being an officer I could start to teach, but you've probably forgot what you've learned and forgot how to teach because you will be too use to telling people what to do. The Navy is the only institution where the ignorant and the lazy can get just as far as the intelligent and ambitious, and usually don't take as long.
8/21/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	I went over to the dentists Monday, and the idiots pulled out one of my wisdom teeth. It wasn't up through the gum yet, so they dug the thing out. Well I have really had a bad time since. I haven't been able to eat or sleep. Last night I went over about seven o'clock and they gave me a couple of pills and finally a penicillin shot, not till after I nearly fainted. That's how they run things in the Navy. I am on a liquid diet and no work chits. All I wanted was my teeth cleaned. The told me to come back later. Well they'll never see me again that's for sure. Looks like they've extended our leaving date. I bought fishing poles for dad and Shirley.
8/26/52	LST 898 Camp McGill	Right now we are at anchor. It's 1:00 AM, about 25 miles from Yokosuka, waiting for the army to bring some LVTs aboard. I finally ate some solid food yesterday. I thought I was never going to eat a good meal again. I still can't open my mouth more than 1/4 <sup>th</sup> of an inch I went on liberty, could only consume milkshakes. I did go bowling for first time in months and rolled: 156, 148, 159.







Date	Location	Activities and Comments
8/28/52	LST 898 Hachioke, Japan to Yokosuka, Japan	We reached our destination early this morning and unloaded four LVTs and started back just a few hours later. Hachioke is 500 miles north of Tokyo. Time has really gone fast since we left the states, I guess that is because we are always on the move. It seems like we just get settled down in one place when some admiral decides to move LST 898 to some detail. I have so much work to do, I don't know where to began. I was laid up last week with a sore tooth so I got behind. I am the only one that makes corrections in our publications, so I have a stack a foot high.
8/30/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan,	We must be on some admiral's sh—list. We are going to be here long enough for one little liberty which is tomorrow for me. Monday morning we leave for the east coast of Korea on some stupid operation. I plan on going to church tomorrow morning, then maybe go bowling, eat a lot of Gee-dunk [Junk food] then plan on going to the movies. That is a real clean liberty. I think most of us have settled down from the wild liberties we had when we first came over here. I wonder where Howard Morrill.[Justin's brother] will be stationed. He should do two years in the army. I enjoyed the sermon by a chaplain. I think its because he didn't seem too much like the military. I guess to me the military and God mix like oil into water. I received a paper back from the U of W and I was really proud because I got an A- on it. I'm reading a new book I got called "The Silver Chalice" by Robert Costain.
9/2/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan to Yo-Do, Wonsan, North Korea	[Wrote a poem] Sometimes a person just wants to write what he feels. Maybe he fails to capture the true meaning of the greatness around him, but it comes from the heart and thus lacks the logic of the thinkers. I was inspired by a beautiful sunset. We are taking a bunch of Seabees and equipment to a little island in Wonsan Harbor in North Korea. to repair an emergency airbase. I'm only in three places during these long trips, either in the radio shack or in the sack or chow line. I also do some home work. They won't let us doing anything on watch but read instructional material.







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
9/6/92	LST 898 Yo-Do Island, N.K	We are just going to our anchorage, about 15 miles away from Yo-Do. We come in during the day, unload the See-Bees, then leave for our Anchorage, then go back in at night and pick them up. All the time we are in near the island, destroyers are patrolling back and forth. If they spot a target on land they open up. One of our tasks is unloading barrels of fuel for the equipment. We roll them off the ship into the water and the Seabees roll them up on the beach. . I have been thinking how wonderful it is going to be when you come down to San Diego.
9/9/52	LST 898 Wonsan, N.K.	We plan on loading on Saturday and start back to Japan. We'll only have about 25 days after we arrived unless some admiral decides to send us back here. I've finished another lesson on my correspondence course from the U of W. I hope to finish it in a couple of months
9/11/52	LST 898 Wonsan, N.K.	Relief of long watches may be in sight. One of the kids we sent to radio school is about due back to the ship which will make 3 of us. We are going to load on Sunday, get replenished on Monday and then head for Yokosuka. We have a little deal among us guys who are waiting to see if we made 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Petty Officer. If we all pass we're going to celebrate with Champagne. It means a lot because we get a raise and more privileges. Sometimes when I read your letters, I can find myself almost home, it seems so real. Although I wish that things stay the same when I get back, I know that it cannot stand as a statue because things are made of flesh and time and not of clay.
9/14/52	LST 898 Yo-Do Island, NK	The Seabees say they would be finished sometime tomorrow or Tuesday. Do you remember Margieriate Higgins, the woman who wrote a lot of stories on the Korean War. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1951. [She wrote about the Marines at Chosin Reservoir and was first female reporter in Korea.] She's here writing stories about the Seabees and the island. When we get to Yokosuka we are going into the yards to get ready for our trip back. What's good about that is we can walk off the ship.



Date 1952	Latitude 12° 15' N	Longitude 157° 30' W
12-10-52	12° 15' N	157° 30' W
12-11-52	12° 15' N	157° 30' W
12-12-52	12° 15' N	157° 30' W
12-13-52	12° 15' N	157° 30' W
12-14-52	12° 15' N	157° 30' W
12-15-52	12° 15' N	157° 30' W



Date	Location	Activities and Comments
9/18/52	LST 898 Wonsan to Yokosuka	[Our Captain asked permission to shoot our 40 mm guns at the Wonsan Coast as we left Yo-Do Island after picking up the Seabees. I copied the following message from the commander of our mission as follows: "In the past LST has stood for Large Slow Targets, permission denied.] When we get to Yokosuka we are going to have a ship's party that is going to be a real affair. I know because I'm on the planning committee. Some of the guys have been doing exercises every night, I can now do 22 pushups and 39 sit ups. It's the best I've done. I've lost weight and can now wear 32 inch pants.
9/20/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	I received a letter in the mail today that was dated 11 Sept. so I guess it takes about 8 days for the mail to reach us. If I can find someone I'm going to play tennis tomorrow. That picture I put in mail was just put there to tease mom. [It was a photo of a Japanese girl with a note on the back, "we'll be home by Christmas." ] A lot of the guys get nervous because the Navy likes to transfer sailors from ships that are going home. My boss Joe Fentress will get the first leave when we get home, I'll get the second. I think I'll take the train I don't trust airlines.
9/23/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	Sorry for not writing earlier but I've been busy helping get the ship's party organized. I spent most of the day on Monday going to nightclubs and restaurants trying to find a place for our party. I finally did. We are ordering 400 bottles of beer, plus whiskey, gin, and scotch. We are going to provide sandwiches, cold beans, and potato salad. We are going to have a floor show. I made up what I thought would be quite appropriate: 2 strippers, a couple of other acts thrown in to spice it up. Girls are also being provided. I'm bringing my own. I met a pretty nice one last night. Her name is Akemi. A couple of buddies and I went bowling yesterday. I rolled 220 on the last game. I've just heard Nixon's speech. My heart bleeds for the whole bunch. The more the whole political campaign goes on the more I am thinking that Stevenson will win. Nixon used the right speech because the ordinary person will eat that stuff up. Whether he told the truth or not I don't know. The hell with them all.







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
9/27/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	Yesterday we played football against another LST and won 6-0. I played center. Everyone really got sore. We had our ship's party Friday. Everyone really enjoyed themselves. The executive officer kept coming by and saying at first: Keller you ought to get a "Bronze Star" then later, obviously after a few more drinks, "make it a Silver Star" and finally, "make it a Gold Star." The person we sent to radio school just came back so now we will have three of us who can stand watch. Right now my leave will be around the 25 <sup>th</sup> of November and if you come down to San Diego I could ride back with you. Glad you liked the tea set. Still waiting to hear if dad wants a watch band.
10/1/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	I had a little accident today. I fell against a sharp corner and cut a 3 inch gash on my leg about six inches below my butt. They put some clamps on it. Went bowling and scored 153, 194, 175, 174, it's about the best I've done. I just learned we are going to have a ten day extension. It means I won't be home until almost Christmas
10/6/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	Some good news, I made my rate, so you can change my address to read: Clair W. Keller, RM3. I am proud to learn that I got the highest score made on our ship, 71.83. I don't know the highest mark you can get, maybe 77. Seven guys made 3 <sup>rd</sup> class so we plan on celebrating, drinking champagne. I haven't heard from Joe and Shirley since July. I get irked by people not returning letters.
10/11/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	If we had left Oct. 10 as originally planned, we would be 300 miles at sea. This week I have Chief's Mess Cooking. This is the second time, but it will be the last since I am now 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Class. Let me know what kind of cigarettes you smoke so I can bring some home. I can get them for 80 cents a carton. Only eight more days to fall in love, you shouldn't have to worry.
10/19/52	LST 898 Yokosuka, Japan	Well it's Sunday and I am lying in the sack writing this letter and also listening to classical music on the radio (Rimsky Korsikoff's 1001 nights). We leave tomorrow for the states. Spent the day on the base, went bowling, ate a lot of bacon and tomato sandwiches.







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
10/21/52	LST 898 At sea Japan to Pearl	I'm writing this letter on the teletype so I can learn to use it a little better. Lots of the crew are sea sick, but it doesn't bother old salts like me. I am lucky because I really get two leaves, one when you come to San Diego and another when I go to Seattle. I'm looking forward to listening to good music. I don't know why I like it so much but I just fall into another world when I hear it.
10/26/52	LST 898 At sea, Yokosuka to Pearl	I read in a magazine that a radioman in the Merchant Marine makes \$412 a month compared to my \$130. Maybe I should get a Class B Radio License and then ship out during the summer, although I'm not sure I'll want to do that. I would give anything in the world to be able to write like Elizabeth Goudge, author of Green Dolphin Street, I'm now reading. But you either can or can't and I guess that I can't so I might as well settle down to the fact that I'll be a teacher.
10/31/52	LST 898 At sea Yokosuka to Pearl	Right now I'm at mid-watch but we gained an hour so it's only 3 hrs. I'll have to get up earlier, however. I see from the press we are copying on the teletype, that Harry T., Eisenhower, Nixon, and Stevenson are still slinging mud around. I heard that H.S.T. is going to remove Gen. Van Fleet for agreeing with Eisenhower that we should use more south Korean troops in the war and draw our boys back to reserve positions.
11/3/52	LST 898 Yokosuka to Pearl	We're almost at Pearl. I'm going on liberty tomorrow. Luckily the bars are closed because of election day, but I just want to eat one good square meal anyway. Another good thing is we get our first mail in 18 days. Right now I'm listening to the opera Aida.
11/5/52	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	You probably noticed the stationary has a different picture of our LST. It was taken by a radioman, who happened to be a photographer, when we were at Inchon. You can tell it's our ship because it has port holes and no other LST, that we know, has them. I have a copy of the original photo. I see Eisenhower won the election. I don't think 25% of the servicemen wanted to see him win. We're afraid they will cut the pay for the service men. I just hope that the people of the U.S. made the right choice.







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
11/9/52	LST 898 At sea Pearl to San Diego	Today was a day of betting. I placed a couple of bets and won 2 out of 3. We have about 7 days left before we'll be able to see ole point Loma looming on the big and beautiful horizon. Poor dad, he'll never get a deer. Well I think it was a good idea to leave it out there for next year, after all it will be a little bigger. Someday a deer is going to walk up to dad and just drop dead and then he will have a deer. I bet Shirley looks like a little barrel. I guess she is really excited. Never heard of anyone so darn anxious to have a baby.
11/15/52	LST 898 At sea Pearl to San Diego	You know that I should see you in a little more than two weeks. I can't wait until you come down. I hope nothing has happened to change your plans. I won't take much liberty until you arrive. I'll also have a 72 hour pass so we can go see Alice and Neal. If you want to see slides you might bring a projector.
11/19/52	LST 898 San Diego	Well I did it again, I'm taking a plane home. I just hate to spend two days going home. [Evidently my parents changed their mind and did not drive to San Diego as I thought they were going to do.] Since you are not coming down, I better send the fishing poles home. I've tried to point out to Joe that he should join the Navy Air Reserve at Seattle.
11/23/52	LST 898 San Diego	We had a meeting of the recreation committee yesterday and decided to rent a TV set for the ship. So as usual Clair W. Keller was the one nominated to get it. So I got it and it is now working. So I'm an uncle again, and like Joe put it, "I don't feel a darn bit different." [My niece Bobby] Boy looks like this is going to be a baby hugging leave.
11/24/52	LST 898 San Diego	[A letter to Joe] I haven't been on much liberty since getting back. I've been trying to scrape together a little money so I can go home in style. We should plan on going out together, leave Bobby Jo home with the grand parents.
11/26/52	LST 898 San Diego	The TV has been a hit. We have it on every evening from 4 PM to Midnight. We can get four stations, one from San Diego and three from Los Angeles.
12/2/52	LST 898 San Diego	One of my best buddies has been transferred to another ship. I feel sorry for him since it means starting over getting new friends.







## Korean War Journal: 1952

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
12/6/52	LST 898 San Diego	I've already made an error in my reservations. I have myself coming back on Jan. 5, instead of coming in on the 4 <sup>th</sup> . I'm going to see if I can get a one day extension. I'm going to make a list of things I want to bring home so I don't forget. [This is the last letter home for 1952]



Activity 1: Introduction	Date	Page
I've already read the book in my history class.	12-10-19	1
I've already read the book in my history class.	12-10-19	2
I've already read the book in my history class.	12-10-19	3
I've already read the book in my history class.	12-10-19	4
I've already read the book in my history class.	12-10-19	5



## MY TRAVELS IN 1952

Date	Location	Miles at Sea
1/1-29	LST 898, San Diego	
1/29-2-/3	LST 898, Oakland	500
2/3-2/11	LST 898, at Sea	1,800
2/11-13	LST 898, Pearl Harbor	
2/14-3/2	LST 898, at Sea	3,000
2/3-6	LST 898, Guam	
3/6-10	LST 898, at Sea	1,300
3/11-18	LST 898, Yokosuka	
3/18-23	LST 898, at Sea 15?	1,000
3/23-3/27	LST 898, Sakcho, Korea	
3/27-4/1	LST 898, Inchon, Korea	
4/1-4	LST 898, at Sea	1,000
4/4-16	LST 898, Yokosuka	
4/16-20	LST 898, at Sea	1,600
4/20-29	LST 898, Okinawa	
4/29-5/4	LST 898, at Sea	1,600
5/4-7	LST 898, Yokosuka	
5/7-10	LST 898, at Sea	500
5/7-31	LST 898, Sasebo	
5/31-6/1	LST 898, at Sea	500
6/1-2	LST 898, Yokosuka	
6/2-8	LST 898, at Sea	1,000
6/8-28	LST 898, Inchon & Islands	
6/28-7/1	LST 898, at Sea	500
7/1-15	LST 898, Sasebo	
7/15-8/4	LST 898, at Sea, Paengyong-Do Islands	500
8/4-6	LST 898, Chinchai	
8/6-9	LST 898, at Sea	1,000
8/9-25	LST 898, Yokosuka	
8/26-28	LST 898, Camp McGill	
8/28	LST 898, Hachioke to Yokosuka	
8/28-9/2	LST 898, Yokosuka to Yo -DO Island	1,000
9/2-16	LST 898, Yo-Do Island, & Wonson area	
9/16-20	LST 898, at Sea	1,000
9/20-10/19	LST 898, Yokosuka	
10/20-11/3	LST 898, at Sea	3,200
11/3-6	LST 898, Pearl Harbor	
11/6-16	LST 898, at Sea	2,000
11/16-12/16?	LST 898, San Diego	
12/? 1/4/1953	On Leave	

Total Miles 24,200



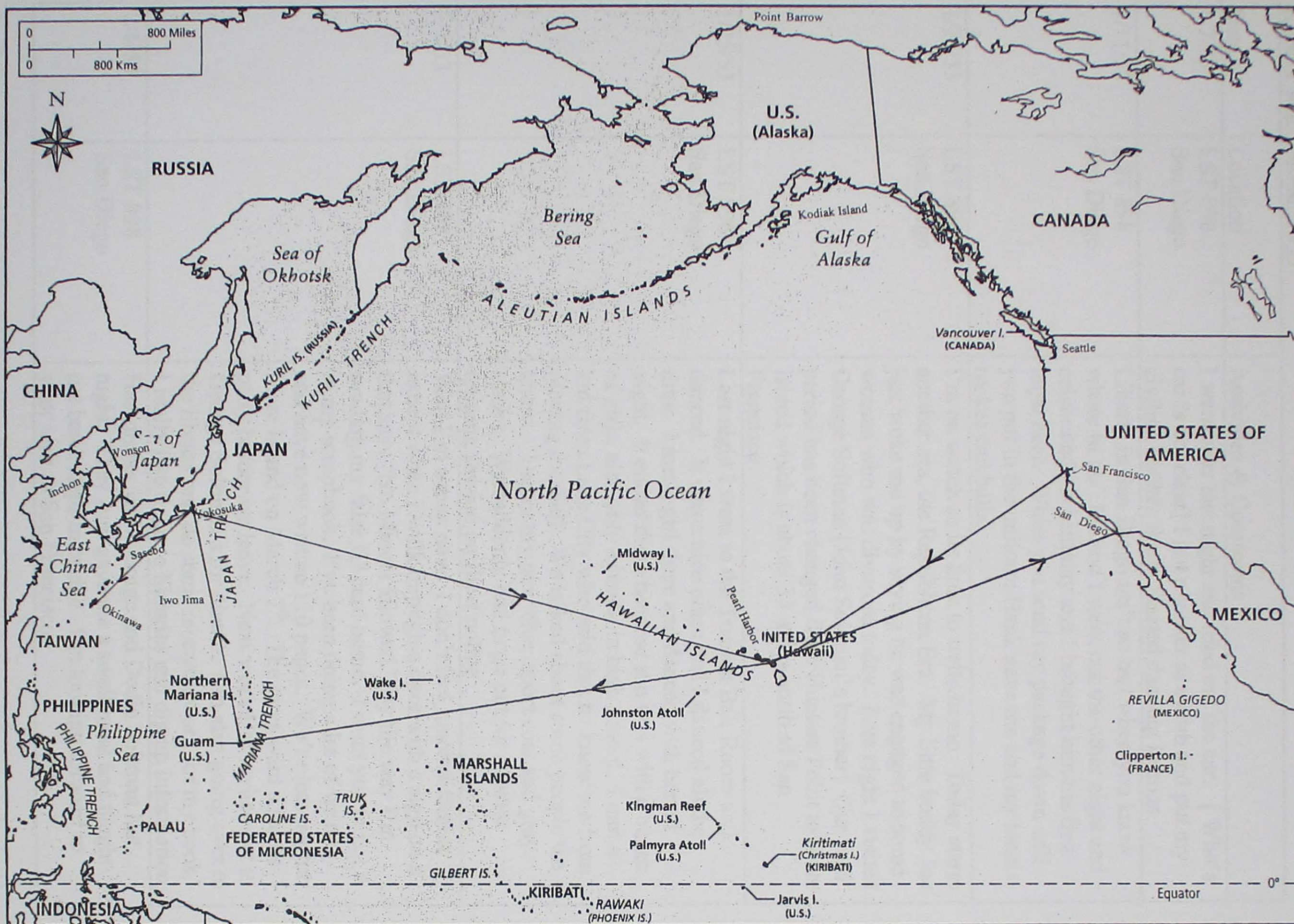
# July 1947 - 1952

Year	Month	Day	Event	Location
1947	July	1	Birth of [Name]	[Location]
1947	August	1	[Event]	[Location]
1947	September	1	[Event]	[Location]
1947	October	1	[Event]	[Location]
1947	November	1	[Event]	[Location]
1947	December	1	[Event]	[Location]
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1952	October	1	[Event]	[Location]
1952	November	1	[Event]	[Location]
1952	December	1	[Event]	[Location]

Total: 24,000



# North Pacific







УСТЬЕ РЕКИ



## Korean War Journal: 1953

Date	Location	Activities & Comments
1/7/53	LST 898 San Diego	I went over last night and tried out the car. [ Who's car is not clear] I got a locker at a club and put my civilian clothes there. Started dancing lessons.
1/11/53	LST 898 San Diego	Liberty in San Diego isn't so bad when you know where to go. Joe and I went out the other night and celebrated his birthday and I brought him his first legal beer. When you send my package down will you put in the uniform Hank gave me and my tennis racket and balls.
1/21/53	LST 898 San Diego	I'm on watch so its time to write home. Today starts another era, the Republican Era. My little buddy Joe just woke me up by saying he was engaged to some woman who was divorced today. Last night I visited George Soltman [John Soltman's brother] Our yard period has been changed from Hunters Point to Mare Island which is about 35 miles north of San Francisco.
1/25/53	LST 898 San Diego	Last night I went to the Trianon Ball Room and danced. It was a nice place and I danced all the time. I met a girl there and danced with her all night. It ended there because she was with a bunch of girls, also only a junior in high school. I met a kid from Lake City who said that he knew me from playing football. We talked about some people we knew. I wore my new blue sport coat and gray slacks. We suddenly had to go out for another training session on short notice.
2/1/53	LST 898 San Diego	Well I'm a man now. I don't feel much different except when I walk through a door with a sign on it that says "No Minors allowed." By the way I'm sending my false ID card home. I want you to put it in my scrapbook. I've been doing a lot of writing and have now written 110 pages. We're leaving for Mare Island on March 7 <sup>th</sup> . The guys want a ship's party before we leave. Next week I'm invited out to George Soltman's for dinner. I'm also going over to the library and do some research work for my book. I really like to go to libraries and dig up information.
2/6/53	LST 898 San Diego	Had dinner with George and Dodie Soltman last night. They sure gave me a swell meal and taught me basic steps in bridge. I'm looking forward to your visit to San Francisco







## Korean War Journal: 1953

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
2/7/53	LST 898 San Diego	I drove to Los Angeles over the weekend but found Alice and Neal gone for the weekend. I bet it's the first time they've been gone. Did see Jim Fisher [a boyhood friend] in Santa Anna. [I must have had my car by then, none of the letters mention purchasing it.] Thanks for the doughnuts. Lucky you sent a lot of them. They disappeared really fast.
2/17/53	LST 898 San Diego	Had a long weekend in LA. We were stopped by some plain cloths men who thought we had stolen the car because we were just driving around. We went to Hollywood and got as hotel room on Sunset Blvd. We went to the YMCA saw a couple of volleyball games. One of the teams was a national champion. We went to the Palladium. We danced to the music of Ralph Flanigan (the nation's #1 band) but boy was the place crowded. The next day we drove back to San Diego.
2/18/53	LST 898 San Diego	Last night I went to the Paris Inn again and danced. I have a date this Friday night, I'll tell you how it all turns out. [Did not mention the date again.]
2/24/53	LST 898 San Diego	I'm spending the week at the Naval Station attending a class on Radio/Teletype Procedure and Operation, something we don't even use on this ship. Worked on my book tonight. I've written about 180 pages.
3/2/53	LST 898 San Diego	Friday night went to a movie called "Hans Christain Anderson" that featured Ballet. After the movie I went dancing to a western band. On Saturday we drove to Yuma, Arizona. We couldn't find anything to do so we went to El Centro and found a place to dance. Then went to Mexacali, Mexico and got a hotel room about 4 AM. Sunday went to El Centro and danced then started back to San Diego and got caught in a snow storm and had to turn back and drive about 250 miles out of the way to get back to San Diego about 9 AM. Luckily we didn't have to be back until noon. Tomorrow night is the ship's party. Put a \$5 in the next letter and take it out of my allotment check.
3/8/53	LST 898 San Diego	We had our ship's party Tuesday and it was a real success. Lots of beer and food, a five piece band with a vocalists. But the thing that made it a success were the girls. One of my buddies is driving the car to Mare Island. Saving the \$5 you sent for SFran.



Date	Page	Subject
1-17-23	1-17-23	1-17-23
1-17-23	1-17-23	1-17-23
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## Korean War Journal: 1953

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
3/12/53	LST 898 Oakland, Calif.	Funny how you get a thrill by just coming in under the Golden Gate bridge. I don't know whether its an awesomeness because of man's triumph over nature or what it is, but somehow as I write this letter from the boat deck watching the sun lose its grip on day and see San Francisco across the water and the Oakland Bay Bridge hanging in midair I can't help but feel wonderful. Trip from San Diego wasn't too bad, although a number of the new guys got seasick. We still have to finish unloading cargo, then go to Mare Island and move into barracks.
3/17/53	Mare Island	Right now I'm at the "Neptune Club" about a block from the barracks. It has a television room, a game room, a radio room. There's a big lounge in which you can write letters or have a beer or do both. They have dances here on Saturday night. There's a bowling alley and a movie theatre. I checked the duty list. If you and dad can come down from about the 7 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> of April then I would have two weekend passes.
3/19/53	Mare Island	April 9 <sup>th</sup> for your visit would be great. Tomorrow I'm going to drive Henschen to the air port, he is going home on leave for 30 days. I'm going to have full possession of the car all that time. [We must have purchased the car together.]
3/26/53	Mare Island	Last night we went to Richmond to a place called "Sam's Club." We drank beer and danced all evening. Boy am I having a really tough life. From 8-9:30 I do radio stuff, then go to the electronic building and inventory all the test tubes. Found some tennis courts only a couple blocks away. Could you bring my portable typewriter down so I can write on my book in the barracks.
4/2/53	Mare Island	Just got back from playing tennis. Looking forward to your visit. [The large gap between these two letters took place because of my parents' visit.]
4/27/53	Mare Island	Spent the morning doing some wash and then played tennis with Joey. I had a date with the girl with the baby. We went to a movie and danced for a little while. Henschen it back. He bought insurance so he can bring the car on the base. [This solves the problem the car belongs to Henschen.]







## Korean War Journal: 1953

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
5/1/53	Mare Island	Got a letter from Tom Coglas. He's been in the hospital several weeks because of an accident he had in Korea. Glad that Joe got his apprenticeship in Yakima. It's going to be hard for you not having your granddaughter around. My buddy Joey is going on leave.
5/4/53	Mare Island	Saturday Jack Harrison (you met him at the club western) and I went dancing. We got a couple of dates and came out to the EM Club here on the base. We stayed at his uncle and aunt's house that night. We met a couple of girls who have an apt. in Richmond. Sunday Jack fixed the brakes on our car. So Grandpa [Keller] is going to get married. The children should not hold it against him because its his life. When your 70 and you feel your life hasn't been complete then the only thing to do is to try and make it so.
5/10/53	Mare Island	Today is mothers day and I to write this letter to just you because no matter how hard I tried, it would be impossible to find a "Mothers Day Card" that could come close to expressing my gratitude for having the most wonderful mother in the world. I've set aside two goals in life: You will never have any reason not to be proud of me and to be just half as good a parent to my children as my parents are to me.
5/16/53	Mare Island	Again I spent the morning washing clothes by hand. Last night I went to Joe Fentress's to watch the fight. I just reach for a good bottle of beer and it was over. I lost a bet. I thought Wolcott would go at least 10 rounds. Looks like we'll be here until at least June 10 <sup>th</sup> . Here it is one day after payday and I'm already broke so all I'll be able to do is go to a 12 cent movie on the base.
5/19/53	Mare Island	Just got great news. The reason we are going back into dry dock is so they can put ice blisters on our hull because we are going to Alaska and will stop at Seattle on the way up for about two weeks. We are going to Point Barrow. May stop again on the way back. After we return to San Diego we then shove off for Japan around the middle of the October.







## Korean War Journal: 1953

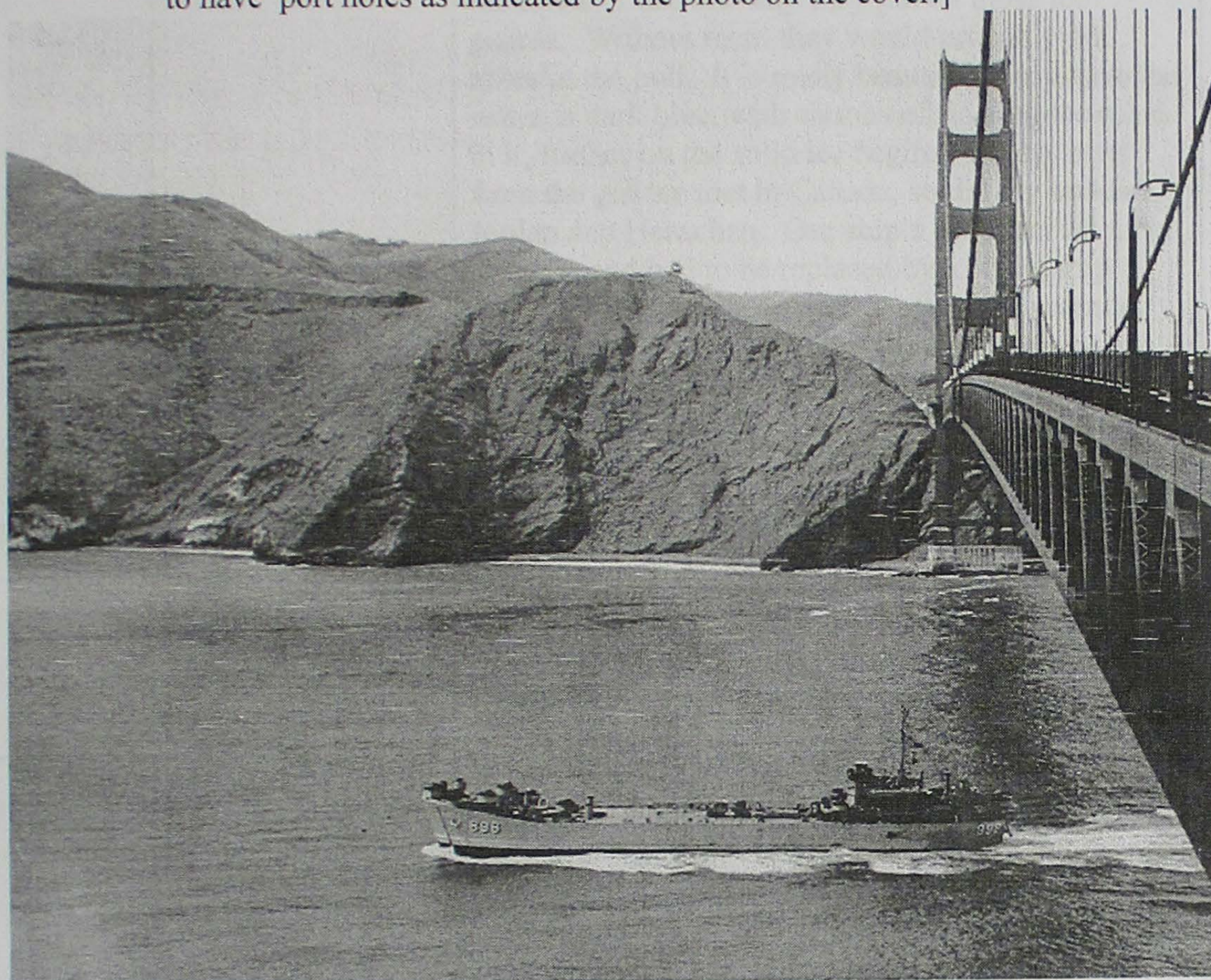
Date	Location	Activities and Comments
5/26/53	Mare Island	I'm still much elated over going to Seattle. Its going to be quite an experience to come sailing down the Puget Sound. After this pay day we're going to really throw one. I bet I haven't been on the beach since right after two pay days ago.
6/1/53	Mare Island	They've changed our plans again. We leave here around the 11 <sup>th</sup> of June for Long Beach. After five days we head north and arrive in Seattle around June 23 <sup>rd</sup> . My buddy Joe didn't get married. The girl got pregnant a month before he came home on leave. I'm glad to have my buddy free again.
6/9/53	LST 898 Alameda Air Base	We had a change of plans again. We are not going to Long Beach, but will arrive in Seattle around June 15. Regarding the car. The officer will wait until we get to Seattle to determine what to do about it. [I drove an officer's car to Seattle. First it blew a rod just outside of Vellejo. I drove it up the next day, having all sorts of trouble, burning lots of oil.] With the change of plans, the car could have been loaded on the ship and taken to Seattle. The trip down by plane was good. Rode down with General Van Fleet. We went to Moffit field and they drove us to San Francisco. I rented a hotel room and saw San Francisco for a while. The next day I caught our ship at Alameda.
8/5/53	LST 898 Alaska	We still haven't been able unload yet. The ice has been under pressure from the north winds. [We may be at Hertzel Islands in Canada] They've postponed the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class exam for a week. We went to Point Barrow. We've had trouble going through the ice, we made about 1 1/2 miles in 8 hrs. Still not clear when we will leave for Seattle.
8/8/53	LST 898 Alaska	They are planning a pretty good trip home after we leave Point Barrow. We ware going to Nome, then stop at Kodiak Island and then to Seattle via the inland passage. We finally got unloaded, we landed on the beach at 10 PM Thursday and got unloaded Saturday about 2 AM. We haven't been able to make much progress because of heavy fog.
8/20/53	LST 898 Near Kodiak Island	We had 2 <sup>nd</sup> class exams on Tuesday We'll have to wait until 15 Nov. to get results. I'm reading "The Fountainhead" and it had a terrific impact on me.







Leaving San Francisco for Seattle and Alaska, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1953  
 [Note: This may not be our ship because there doesn't seem to have port holes as indicated by the photo on the cover.]









## Korean War Journal: 1953

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
8/24/53	LST 898 Alaska	We are finally leaving Point Barrow where we picked up mail. Now we are weaving through the ice flows. I can see why they put on those ice guards. Without them they would probably put holes in the hull. It is really beautiful. You have the water, a dark blue, with chunks of floating ice cakes in it, further on the solid ice begins. I got a letter from the girl we met in Canada, so did my buddies, Jordan and Henschen. Our ship's propeller hit a big ice cube and had to be replaced by a repair ship. They had to blow the propeller off with dynamite. [Evidently didn't write home about our ships deciding not to take leave at Nome, then went to Kodiak where our guys on the beach caused a fight and the commander of Kodiak kicked us out, As a result only half the guys got liberty.]
9/8/53	LST 898 Seattle to San Diego via Port Hueneme	We haven't been in San Diego since March 7 <sup>th</sup> . We leave Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> for Japan. Jordan has decided he wants to go to the U of W. We could room together. We might not learn much but get a heck of a social education. We are even talking about co-owning a bar to help us get through school.
9/14/53	LST 898 San Diego	Went on the beach Saturday night and really had a good time. Spent all of it at the Paris Inn. Danced from 8 to 1:30 AM. Seems like every time I dance, I get better. We had a liberty at Port Hueneme on the way down. It was a good one too. We've got to the point where we can pull a good liberty any place.
9/20/53	LST 898 San Diego	We don't have to stand watches now, so its been pretty soft. I plan to go to LA this weekend and visit Alice and Neal. We're having a ships party on Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> , and I'm chairman of the committee. Got a new kid on the ship from Seattle who knows Dick Bennett [a cousin]. The world is sure small.
9/28/53	LST 898 San Diego	Went to LA stayed with Alice and Neal and went to the USC-Minn football game on Saturday. Saw my first 3-D movie. An order came through to transfer my buddy Jordan to the Naval Amphibious Base at Coronado. But the officers on this ship went over and stopped it. Joe Fentress is going to get transferred before we go overseas, so it will leave me in charge of the radio shack. Joe and I plan on going to LA this weekend.







## Korean War Journal: 1953

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
10/5/53	LST 898 San Diego	Saw USC football game with Indiana. Saturday night we went dancing. Sunday after watching the World Series went to Grummans Chinese Theater and saw the Robe. It was worth \$2 just to be in the theater. Then hitch hiked back to San Diego. We are going to have Bud Abbot and Lou Costello at our ship's party. Went to a dance on the base last Tuesday night. Lawrence Welk played, he was great.
10/11/53	LST 898 San Diego	Could you send me clippings of U of W football games once we leave for Japan. We're just unable to get such news.
10/18/53	LST 898 San Diego	The ships party was a big success, though I don't think it was as good as the last one we had. I don't know what exactly was wrong. We had more to eat and more to drink, had more girls there, almost too many. We had a floor show that featured Lou Costello. [No Bud Abbot.] He was a hit of course. We had a heck of a time with the decorations, we didn't stretch the crepe paper before putting it up and as a result sagged all over the place. That's what four gobs get for trying to do a woman's job.

Lou Costello and friends at Ship's Party









Date	Location	Activities and Comments
10/22/53	LST 898, at sea San Diego to Oahu	We've had some really bad weather so a lot of guys have been sea sick. I've avoided it. Could you send a money order for \$25 so I would be able to buy some Christmas presents.
10/30/53	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	Waiting for the paymaster to arrive so I can have some money to go on the beach. Some good news is that I made 2 <sup>nd</sup> class radioman. Four of us made it, Jordan was one. They go in effect May 15. I may increase my allotment home. Thanks for the clippings.
11/1/53	LST 898 Pearl Harbor	We found a great place for liberty. It's called Johnny Welch's. It has a three piece girl's band that is the best I've ever heard. That have a girl that plays the accordion and a steel guitar, the middle plays an electric guitar, the last girl plays the base and saxophone. A couple of guys brought a puppy dog on board last night. Not suppose to have them on ship so they are waiting until we are underway then announce to the ole man. I think the sh— will hit the fan when that happens. We did get the cookies, must not have mentioned it. As usual they didn't last long.







Date	Location	Activities & Comments
11/7/53	LST 898 Pearl to Yokosuka	This weekend I had twenty bets. I would have really cleaned up except for my bets on the U of W. I lost three bets. I came out \$5 ahead. Its really been hot since we left Pearl. Just finished a book by William Warren Penn, "World Enough and Time." Yesterday was Armistice day but LST 898 didn't honor it. [Nothing written about the dog brought on the ship.]
11/16,18/53	LST 898 2 days from Yokosuka	Yesterday my RM2 came through. They had quarters and the Captain handed us our certificates and gave a little talk hoping it was the beginning of a long and successful career in the Navy. We had to bite our tongue to keep from laughing. We have four Second Class POs in our division. That's more than any other division. My "bookie" bets were going full blast this weekend, lost only two bets. Maybe I'll be a gambler when I get out of the Navy. I won't play poker, however. I sat down at a poker table and lost five dollars, didn't win a hand. Then went to the black jack table and won my money back. Finally reach Yokosuka. Really had some bad weather the last couple of days.
11/21/53	LST 898 Yokosuka	Well I'm back in Japan. We've been gone 13 months and it hasn't changed even though they are going through one of the greatest progressive periods in their history, they are still prone to tradition and customs. The girl I took to the ship's party still works at the same place. Thursday they had a storm warning and cancelled liberty but we were already on the beach so we had to spend the night in the barracks. Our orders have been changed and we aren't going to Sasebo for Christmas and New Years but to Kobe and Kure which we've never been to. These are good ports because there aren't many other ships there.
11/27/53	LST 898 Yokosuka	This is the day after Thanksgiving. I have a lot to be thankful for even though at times it may seem hidden beneath a curtain of reality. Our ship had a holiday routine. We ate breakfast late and had our Thanksgiving meal around 2:30 PM. I actually like our ship moving around a lot because time seems to go faster.







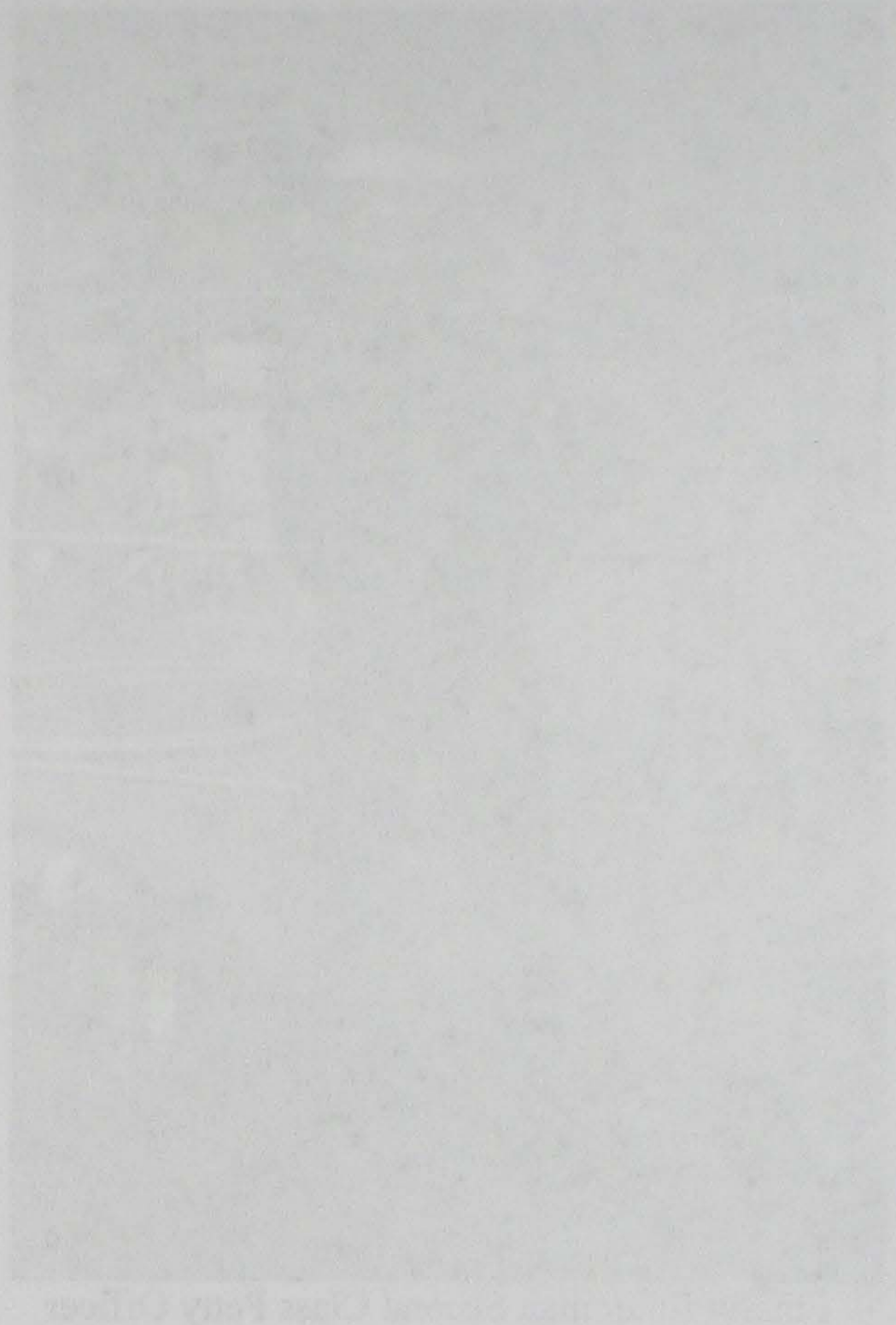


Finally Radioman Second Class Petty Officer

Korean War Journal: 1953

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
12/2/53	LST 898 Yokosuka	It's December already and by the time you receive this letter I'll have a couple of days less than 13 months to do in the Navy. [I actually had much less since I was able to get out about a month and a half early.] I still have hidden hopes of starting school in October, 1954 or at least in January. Somehow I feel that everything else is unimportant, except that I will be home with my friends again, the people I love and need. I'm not worried because I know that the best part of my life is yet to come.
12/10/53	LST 898 Yokosuka	We will be gone for a few days. We are going on operations and land some marines on a beach someplace in southern Japan. Your cookies arrived. They were smashed but we enjoyed eating them anyway. Well we are getting the ship decorated for Christmas. How about getting Joe to drop me a line.





1954-1955

Activities and Comments	Date	Page
<p>It's been a busy and by the time you receive this letter I'll have a couple of days less than 12 months to do in the Navy. It's actually had much less time I was able to get out about a month and a half ago. I still have hidden hopes of sailing either in October, 1954 or at least in January. Somewhere I feel that everything else is an important reason that I will be home with my friends again, the people I love and need. I'm not worried because I know that the best part of my life is yet to come.</p>	<p>1954 1955</p>	<p>1954 1955</p>
<p>It's still a good few days. We are going to operations and land some missions on a beach somewhere in southern Japan. I am confident that they were successful but we enjoyed making them our way. Well we are getting the ship downed in Japan. How about getting her to that one day.</p>	<p>1954 1955</p>	<p>1954 1955</p>



Date	Location	Activities and Comments
12/14/53	LST 898 Chigasaki Beach	This is a joint operation. The Army supplies the LVTs, the Navy the ships, the Marines the men. We have 60 army, 320 marines and our crew of 110. There's not a enough places for people to sleep, lines for the head, lines everywhere. Our pay records are someplace between here and Korea so there's a possibility we won't get paid until after Christmas. I'm reading "From Here to Eternity." It's an 800 page book. It's better than the movie.
12/15/53	LST 898 Yokosuka	The operation was a big success they said. I don't know how. It seemed to me that it was a big mess, but of course the brass knows best. Thanks for the books and stationery.
12/20/53	LST 898 Yokosuka	We are leaving for Kure tomorrow. We've got the ship decorated, a star on top of the mast and a cross on the mast using the yardarm.
12/25/53	LST 898 Kure, Japan	I want to tell you about the kids we had on board today. I'm sending a program along too. They arrived by a Japanese Navy motor launch. Each kid had a "big brother to take care of him all day. They played some music for us then we showed them around the ship. I had a 14 year old boy, I've forgot his name. Then we ate chow. The kids ate more than we did. When they discovered the ice cream that was it. They mixed it with the turkey. The Captain made some special punch (3 qts. of 190 proof) we each had a drink. Then the kids opened their gifts and then we all sang Christmas carols. Then the kids went down to the tank deck and saw cartoons. When they left, most of the guys said they had more fun than they did. I just finished the morning edition of the ship's paper. We run about 25 copies off on a ditto machine and have it out for noon chow. We are now in Kobe. We hope the Los Angeles is here so we can get paid. Otherwise it will be a real quiet New Years Eve.
12/30/53	LST 898 Kobe, Japan	I found a name for my book, "Beyond the End". I have written over 400 pages.







# MY TRAVELS IN 1953

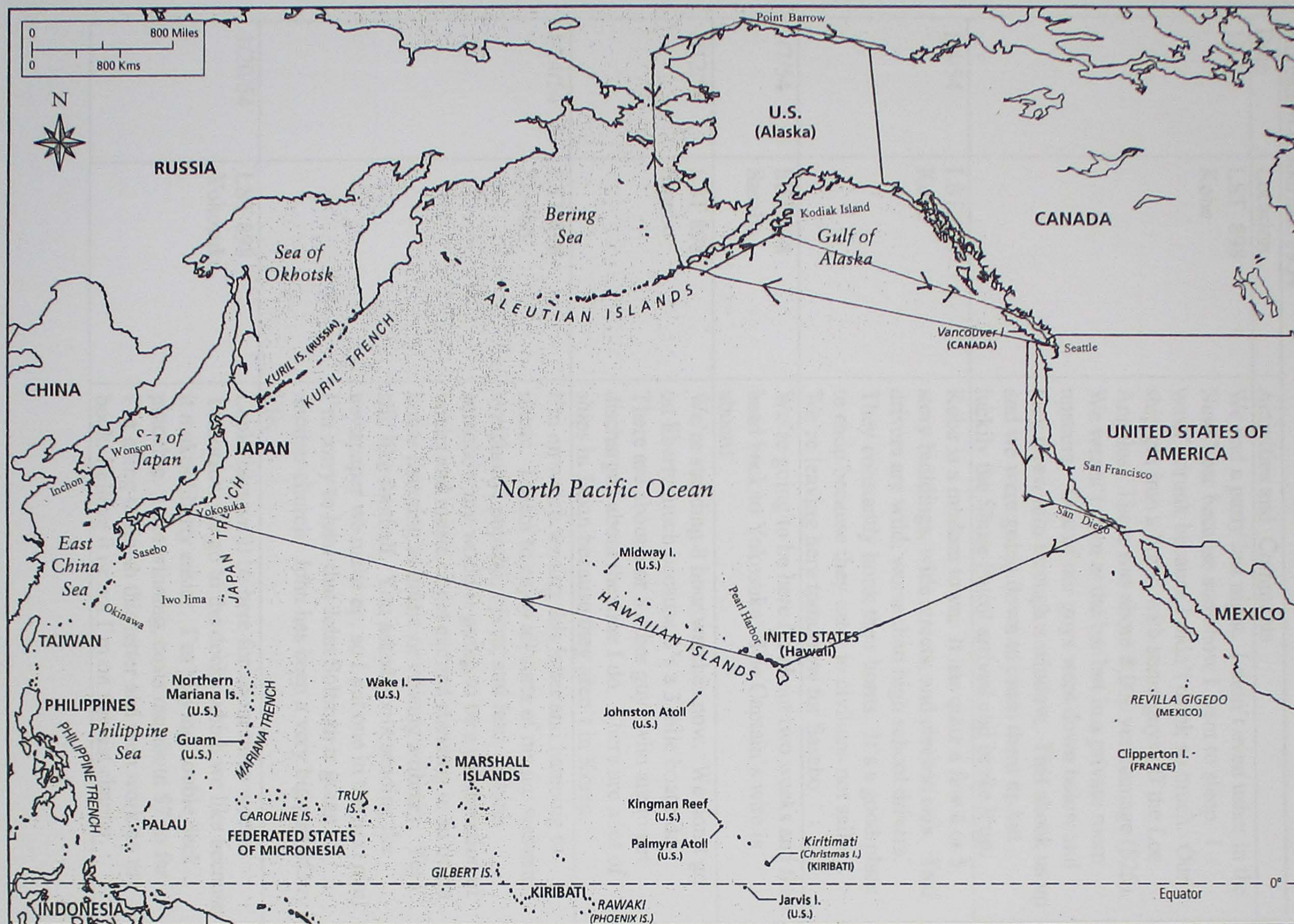
Date	Location	Miles at Sea
1-5-3/8	LST 898, San Diego	
3/8-3/12	LST 898, at Sea	500
3/12-3/11	LST 898, Oakland	
3/12-6/9	Mare Island Barracks	
6/9-?	LST 898, Alameda Naval Air Base	
6/7-6/23	LST 898, at Sea	1,000
6/23-7/10	LST 898, Seattle	
7/10-8/5	LST 898, at Sea	4,800
8/5-8/7	LST 898, Point Barrow, Alaska & Carter Island, Canada	
8/7-8/20	LST 898, at Sea	3,100
8/20-8/21	LST 898, Kodiak Island	
8/21-9/1	LST 898, at Sea	5,100
9/1-8	LST 898, Seattle	
9/8-14	LST 898, at Sea	1,000
9/14-10/18	LST 898, San Diego	
10/18-30	LST 898, at Sea	2,000
10/30-11/7	LST 898, Pearl Harbor	
11/7-20	LST 898, at Sea	3,200
11/20-12/10	LST 898, Yokosuka	
12/11-14	LST 898, Chigasiki Beach	
12/15-21	LST 898, Yokosuka	
12/16-25	LST 898, Kure	300
12/30-12/31	LST 898, Kobe	100
	Miles at Sea	21,100







# North Pacific









## Korean War Journal: 1954

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
1/1/54	LST 898 Kobe	We had a party last night. I didn't even usher in the New Year because somehow I went to sleep. I wasn't drunk because I didn't drink so much. Our ship got into a brawl with some guys off the Los Angeles. There was about 8,000 yen damage (\$25). We weren't even at the bar but in a private room upstairs. One of our guys went down below and they threw him through a window. That shook us up and we were going down to clean them up but luckily the Shore Patrol arrived and broke it up.
1/4/54	LST 898 Kobe	Kobe is a modern town. It has quite a few 4 or 5 story buildings, wide streets, and electric cars. Taxi drivers are wild, worse than high school drivers. They constantly honk their horns. It's a good place to shop because they cater to civilians not sailors. We're leaving here tomorrow for Sasebo.
1/7/54	LST 898 Sasebo	We're going to be here for about two weeks and then head back to Yokosuka. The Captain's wife is aboard.
1/12/54	LST 898 Sasebo	We're standing 8 hour watches now. We don't go on liberty much because it's a 3 mile boat ride. There are about 6 or 8 other guys who are to get discharged about the time I do. There are a lot of ships in Japan because they aren't in Korea.
1/14/54	LST 898 Sasebo	I'm on watch writing this letter and listening to music. I seem to enjoy all sorts of music: western, symphony, popular, opera, and Jazz. I think somehow my world is going to be a combination of books and music. I get excited standing in an opera house listening to music or visiting a library. Yet I still like football. You asked about sending the newspaper we make up, so I put one in the next mail. I'm sorry to hear that John Soltman is going to another church. John has been a very big part of my life.
1/20/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	Looks like we'll be here for about three weeks. Tomorrow we go to the docks which we like because it makes liberty easier. I'm playing double deck pinochle. I not winning, costs me about \$7 so far. I'm going to finish this letter and then work on my book. Believe it or not I'm on the last chapter.







## Korean War Journal: 1954

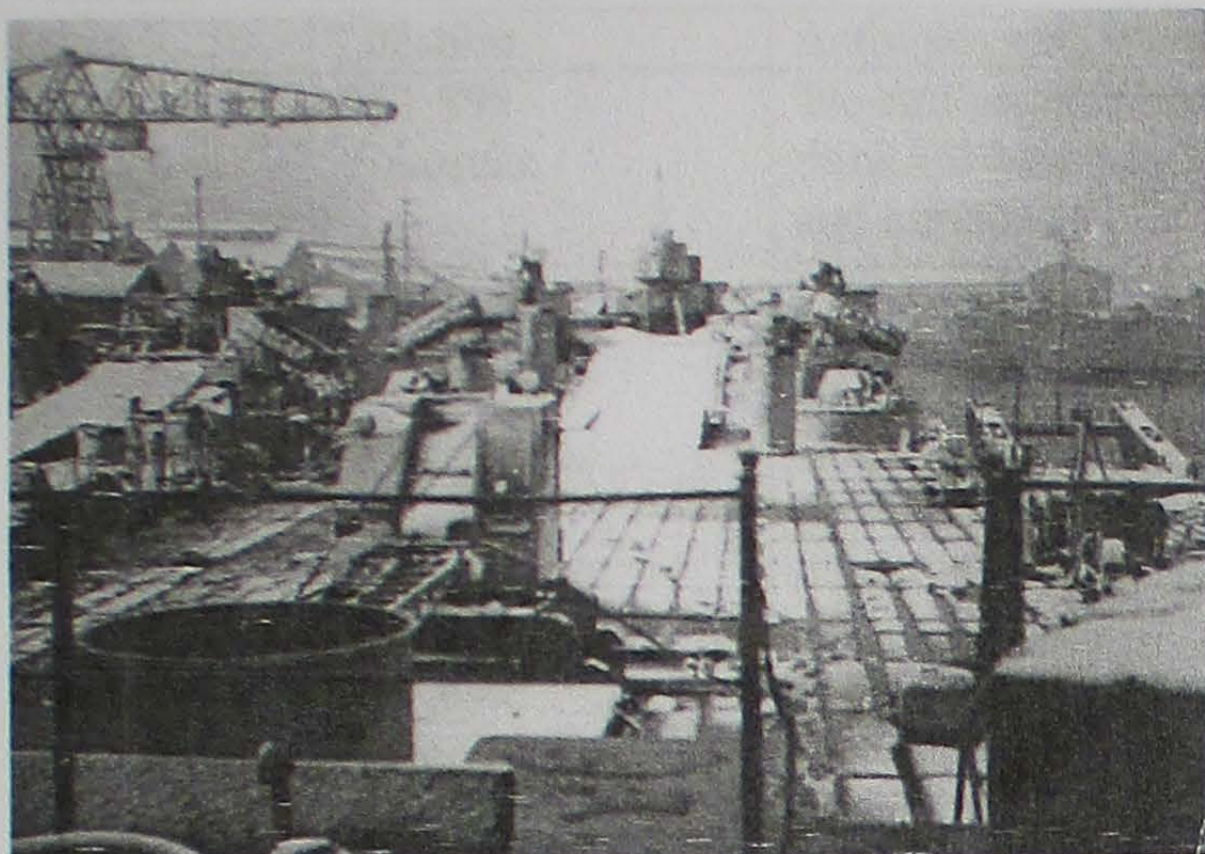
Date	Location	Activities and Comments
1/24/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	It's snowing here. In addition, part of the steam on our ship is off. They did issue us extra blankets. I cover my feet with a jacket. I wonder how the people of Yokosuka are doing with this weather. I've decided to buy a new typewriter rather than a watch. We had a burglary here the other day. A ship mate broke into the ship's service and stole 9 watches. He had to crawl over the top of a fence with about 6 inches. The watches were found. We had CID men here taking finger prints. No one has been accused yet.
1/28/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	Well It's almost my 22 <sup>nd</sup> birthday. I'd break out a beer except that I haven't drank anything for almost a month. We still haven't got paid. Last night I had Shore Patrol. Boy was it miserable, about 20 degrees outside. I stood on cold pavement for three hours at a time.
1/31/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	Yesterday I wrote the end to my book. It took me over two years to put down 440 type written pages. I think mom you will be the first to read my book because of all the people who read my short story "Pink Pasty" [I have no copy of this] which I wrote in one weekend. You at least said something worthwhile. I don't pretend to be much of a writer because I'm new. In writing "Beyond the End" I woke up many nights and wrote thoughts in my notebook.
2/4/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	We are suppose to leave for the states on Apr. 27 <sup>th</sup> . By the time you get this letter or soon after we'll be on our way to Formosa. We don't go on the beach as much as we use to. We tend to go to the PO club. Jordan is taking a Geometry course so we are both learning it since he keeps asking me questions all the time. We still haven't gotten paid. They evidently sent our pay records 4 <sup>th</sup> class rather than registering them.







## Snowing in Yokosuka



1/12/54

Camp McCall

Camp McCall

Yokosuka

Yokosuka

Yokosuka

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## Korean War Journal: 1954

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
2/11/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	We still haven't been paid. Most of us are broke. I think I'll have you send me a care package with soap and toothpaste in it. They will probably print up chit books so we can get stuff out of the ship's store. We've been playing basketball on the tank deck almost every night. We leave for Formosa this weekend. We've changed our Sunday routine. They serve made to order breakfast from 7-11 and then dinner at 4:30. If you get up at 7 you can have another breakfast if you want.
2/28/54	LST 898 Formosa (Taiwan) to Sasebo	[I have found no letter relating to being in Formosa. We were out of money and so they loaned us each a carton of cigarettes that we could sell on the black market. The thing I remember most about Formosa was that the beaches had black sand.] We all hope we get paid when we get to Sasebo. We are going to get paid part of our pay. They still haven't found our pay records.
3/5/53	LST 898 Sasebo	They're only going to pay us for 2 weeks so I would like you to send me \$250 in three money orders. If we get paid, I'll endorse them and send them back and you can put them back in my account. Reading another book called "Lord Vanity" by Samuel Shellabarger.
3/8/54	LST 898 Sasebo	We are leaving for Camp McGill to load troops for some more exercises. I got the pictures you sent me (Linda and Cathy Perry and Bobbie) and had them painted on silk. I think they turned out well. We're going to play bingo while underway to see how it works.
3/12/54	LST 898 Camp McGill 25 miles S. of Yokosuka	The weather was bad so we didn't do much except sit around and talk. The best subject of course "when I get out of the Navy," then about going to school. Many are wondering what they are going to do and most seem interested in going to school. Since I've been to college for one year, I have to answer a lot of questions. I don't know where I want to go to school but I do want to be a teacher. I don't know whether I want to major in History or Journalism. My library of books I've read while in the continues to grow. [I still have some of them in my library.]







## Korean War Journal: 1954

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
3/18/54	LST 898 Enroute to Iwo Jima	We are having what they call Early Dawn Alert about 5:00 AM. So everyone goes to battle stations. Last night I stood watch until midnight, then had to get up at 5:00 AM. This is quite an operation. We've got about 17 LSTs in our group. We are suppose to land troops and take over the island from an aggressor force. I hate to have you send money but I'm anxious to buy a watch, two suits, and a typewriter. The supposed enemy sent planes at us and by the time we get to battle quarters they've made about 15 runs at us. We also had a submarine attack. The sub surfaced and we supposedly sank it.
3/22/54	LST 898 Iwo Jima	Today we went into the beach just below Mt. Sarabachi. Some of the LCVPs were destroyed by the big breakers so they put the troops on our ship and we landed on the beach. We didn't anchor last night but went around in circles so underwater divers couldn't attack us. So Jordan, I and another guy tied a red light to a life preserver and threw it overboard. After about 10 minutes it was spotted and then we kept running around trying to avoid it. They finally let us anchor. We got a good laugh out of all the commotion we caused. Our schedule has changed again. We're going to Nagoya rather than Kobe.
3/29/54	LST 898 Iwo Jima to Yokosuka	It seems I have a very grave problem, I don't like the Navy. I'm not alone in this I'm sure. The one thing they can't take away from me in this "Den of Misery" is that every day I just get a little closer to the door that separates the inside (that's me) from the outside (that's you).
4/1/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	Good news. We are leaving for the states on April 17 <sup>th</sup> and they finally found our pay records. I'll be able to send about \$200 home. We may not leave this port before we start for home. I got measured for my suits. A gray one button wool-cashmere and a navy blue two button wool cashmere. I'm going to join the Heritage book club, It has only classic books they are the kind I want in my library. I get 9 books for \$19.71. Well they may let us out of the Navy up to two months early through Dec. 31, 1954. Send me some car ads if I decide what to buy a car.







## Korean War Journal: 1954

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
4/5/54	LST 898 Yokosuka & Nogoya	We are going to Nogoya. Why we are going there? No one knows. We finally got paid so I'm sending money back in a registered letter. Its been a while since I wrote last. Sometimes I just don't feel like writing. Nogoya is a pretty good place for liberty, mostly Air Force people. They live in hotels. We had a couple stay on the ship with us the other night, they thought we had it great. After a couple of beers we decided to change uniforms so I was in the Air Force for a couple of hours. Nogoya city is about 9 miles from the docks. It takes 45 minutes by trolley and only costs 10 yen, but 500 yen by cab.
4/15/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	We'll be leaving the land of the rising sun in just two days. I'm sure it will be the last time I see Japan while in the Navy and maybe in life. [Actually went to Japan in 1993 on a fellowship for 3 weeks] Did I tell you that I am still writing to Beverly Elson—the girl from Vancouver. She plans on coming to Seattle when we get there. One good thing about the return trip we now have four radiomen so we only stand watch 4 out of 12 hours.
4/16/54	LST 898 Yokosuka	[Letter to Tommy Coglas] I thought that since we're going to be in San Diego for a month, it's possible that you and I might be able to get together on a weekend. I would sure like to meet you. It's been almost a year since we were together in Seattle. Heck I might even buy you a beer if you still drink the stuff. We visited several cities in Japan. We also went to Formosa. That's really some good liberty. I had some of my best time there for a couple of days. The women are pretty nice, especially the skirts they wear which are split half way of their side. Hear that your not engaged anymore. Mom says "Well I guess the ring goes into mothball again." She gets such a bang out of your love affairs, she seems to know the latest scoop. I'm writing a girl from Canada, she is planning to come to Seattle from Vancouver B.C. for a couple of weeks when I get to Seattle about the 20 <sup>th</sup> of June. She's a good kid, but there is nothing serious between us, on my part at least. [I don't know if she came to Seattle. Our ship didn't go to Seattle]



<p>1944 1945</p>	<p>1946 1947</p>	<p>1948 1949</p>
<p>1950 1951</p>	<p>1952 1953</p>	<p>1954 1955</p>
<p>1956 1957</p>	<p>1958 1959</p>	<p>1960 1961</p>



Date	Location	Comments and Activities
4/20/54	LST 898 Yokosuka to Pearl	<p>It looks like I'm going to get out of the Navy 2 months early. That means I will be able to start school in January. One of the crew got an erupted ulcer. He was really in bad shape, bleeding internally. For quite awhile we thought he would die. Any way we left the other ships and headed north where we met the USS Wasp who was coming south. The two ships closed 500 mile gap in about 12 hours. A helicopter then landed on our deck and we transferred him to the Wasp. The last we heard he was heading for Pearl. He was too ill to be transferred by plane. In all the six ships in our group, there wasn't one doctor. You would think with 800 officers and men they would provide at least one doctor. I will say that once we sent a message into the wheel [Not sure what I meant by this] it didn't take long for the Navy to spring into action. As for me I say that I spent the busiest 24 hours of my navy career, "radio wise" that is.</p>
4/26/1954	LST 898 AT Sea	<p>We are 2000 miles from Pearl and going in the wrong direction. This time we are heading south to meet another LST that is coming from the Ennewitok atoll, why? So we won't get lonely going to Pearl. Another thing we have about 15 officers and men that got stranded on our ship because they were inspectors brought on board for one day, only they never got off. Some of them have only a tooth brush. This makes us one big happy family. Orders have now been changed and we are heading to Pearl alone because we have those 15 inspectors. So we won't lose as much time as we thought and should get to San Diego by May 15th. We will be in Pearl just one day to get paid, pick up mail, take on fuel and water, and get some fresh milk, ice cream, fruits and vegetables. Now I learn that it's possible I won't get out 2 months early.</p>







## Korean War Journal, 1954

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
5/26/54	LST 898 San Diego	I've decided to buy a car. By not taking any leave I will get paid more money when I get discharged. I will not be spending money on leave either. So maybe I'll have enough to pay for the car. Having a car will allow me and my friends to go to a lot better places like the Aragon Ballroom, Santa Monica Ballroom, Palladium and other places. Getting insurance will be expensive. I think I'll try to get it from Mayflower with whom I had insurance before. When you send me clothes put in my tennis racket. The car is a 5 passenger coupe. It has 46,000 miles.
6/1/54	LST 898 San Diego	We had a pretty good weekend. We went to Long Beach area, went dancing Saturday night and then spent the day at Toney's brother's place. Sat around watched TV and drank beer. I've been listening to the Army-McCarthy hearings. They are really interesting. Also did some reading about them. Stan Freeberg has a record out about the hearings called "Point of Order. [I can't believe I wrote the following.] I have a greater respect for McCarthy and the work he's been doing since the hearings. That is unlike popular opinion.
6/13/54	LST 898 San Diego	I plan on going to Los Angeles and stay with a kid who lives in north Hollywood. We plan on taking a couple girls out to the Palladium or some place like that. Will try to drop by Alice and Neal's on the way back. Looks like we're going to Mare Island around the Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup> . I would like you to send my tennis racket so I can get some exercise. I'm also playing golf. Tom Coglas might be in LA, if so I'll try to get together with him.







## Korean War Journal: 1954

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
6/18/54	LST 898 San Diego	Thanks for sending my tennis racket. I'm playing golf with my buddy Bill Bulanti. We really have a good time. Henschen came back from leave and is going to get married in September so now we have a lovesick calf on our hands. Jordan is on leave so things are pretty calm around here. I finally got a letter from Tommy Coglas so I hope to see him when I go to Los Angeles this weekend. We are going to the races on Saturday. I hope Cohn and Adams are fired because after listening to the whole thing it is evident that they were the one's who caused the problem. [McCarthy Hearings] We plan on going to the Palladium on Saturday and see Les Brown who is really great. I set a record with this letter. I didn't ask for a single thing.
6/21/54	LST 898 San Diego	I spent the weekend in Hollywood at one of our radiomen's, Herb Klein, place. Went to the races on Saturday and bet on five races, lost a total of \$1.50, then we went to the movie, Dial M for Murder. It was a great picture. Klein's girlfriend fixed me up with a date, her name is Sheila Schaps. She is a pretty good looking kid. I'm planning on taking her out again on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> of July. We went to a place called Barons and had pizza. Sunday Tommy C. and I finally got together. It was sure great to see him. We went to the USO to have a place to sit around and shoot the bull. We even called his dad up and I talked to Louis, it was great. There is also free food at the USO and then they insisted we take sandwiches when we left. I'll try to see Tommy over the July 4 weekend. His aunt had invited me to stay at their house. [I first met Tommy's aunt on our trip to California in 1949.] Went to a dance on Friday night, Jan Garbor was playing. The car is doing well. Hope Joe got his watch on time.
6/25/54	LST 898 San Diego	There are four guys who came back from leave who are going to get married. Now three of my buddies walk around lovesick. One of the guys on the ship is getting married Friday. We're planning on causing him lots of trouble. No report on pickups because the car has been idle lately. No money for gas.







Date	Location	Activities and Comments
7/1/54	LST 898 San Diego	Rather than watch a movie I'm in the radio shack alone and listening music while I write this letter. This is a great escape. Tomorrow night we begin our great escape by going to Swift's wedding. I buddy around with Bill Bulanti he's not old enough to drink so that calms the rest of us down. Saturday we're going to the races and then that evening I'm taking the girl I met a while back named Sheila Schaps to the Aragon Ballroom where Lawrence Welk will be playing. Sunday Tommy and I plan on playing tennis. Someone smashed the window in my car so I have to get that fixed, then I had a flat tire, and also got a parking ticket. Could you send me \$15 so I'll have enough to carry me until pay day.
7/6/54	LST 898 San Diego	Well the big weekend is over. Friday night went to our ship mate's (Swift) wedding held at the First Methodist Church at Santa Monica. The people treated us great like we were one of the family. We poured rice inside and outside the car and their suit cases. Tied tin cans to the car and chased them for a couple of hours. Went to the races on Saturday and lost \$4. I Went out with Sheila Schaps on Sat. night. I don't think anything will come of that because we are so unlike. Spent the weekend at Tommy's aunt. Sunday went over to friends of Swift for another party. The friends want me to go to a Swedish dance on the 17 <sup>th</sup> . They really are nice people. Tommy came along and played an accordion someone had. Monday we had a great big chicken dinner at Tom's aunt's. I lost the keys to my car so now I have to go over and have one made.
7/11/54	LST 898 San Diego	Last night I went dancing at the Mission Ballroom to Harry James. It was worth \$1.75 to get in, it was almost my last \$1.75. I'm thinking about going to Mexico city after I get discharged. I plan on going north again next weekend because Tommy will be there.



<p>1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the smell of the sea. It was a fresh, salty scent that I had never experienced before. The sun was shining brightly, and the waves were crashing against the shore. I felt a sense of freedom and adventure as I walked along the beach. The sand was soft and warm under my feet. I looked out at the vast expanse of the ocean, feeling small and insignificant in the face of nature's power. The horizon line was clear, separating the deep blue water from the lighter blue sky. I took a deep breath, savoring the salty air. This was my first time at the beach, and it felt like I had discovered a new world. The sound of seagulls in the distance added to the peaceful atmosphere. I walked for hours, not caring about time or where I was going. It was a perfect day, and I was living in the moment.</p>	<p>2. The second thing I noticed was the sound of the waves. It was a rhythmic, soothing sound that seemed to lull me into a state of relaxation. The water was a beautiful shade of blue, and the waves were breaking in a way that created white foam. I watched the waves for a long time, mesmerized by their constant motion. The sun was still high in the sky, and the beach was crowded with people. I saw families playing in the sand, couples walking hand in hand, and children running along the water's edge. Despite the large number of people, there was a sense of harmony and peace. The beach was a place where everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. I felt a part of it, even though I was just a stranger. The sound of the waves was a constant reminder of the ocean's power and beauty. It was a sound that I would never forget.</p>
<p>3. The third thing I noticed was the feel of the sand. It was soft and warm, and it felt like a blanket. I walked barefoot, feeling the grains of sand between my toes. The sand was a golden color, and it looked so inviting. I wanted to lie down and just relax. The sun was still shining, and the waves were still crashing. I felt a sense of calm and tranquility. The beach was a perfect place to escape the stresses of everyday life. I had heard that the beach was beautiful, but I didn't realize how much I needed it. The sand was a reminder of the simplicity of life. It was a reminder that sometimes, all you need is a little sand and a little sun. I walked for hours, feeling the sand under my feet. It was a feeling that I had never experienced before. The sand was a part of the beach, and it was a part of me now. I had found a new sense of peace and comfort. The sand was a reminder of the beauty of the world. It was a reminder that sometimes, the simplest things are the most beautiful. I walked for hours, feeling the sand under my feet. It was a feeling that I had never experienced before. The sand was a part of the beach, and it was a part of me now. I had found a new sense of peace and comfort. The sand was a reminder of the beauty of the world. It was a reminder that sometimes, the simplest things are the most beautiful.</p>	<p>4. The fourth thing I noticed was the taste of the sea. It was a salty, briny taste that I had never experienced before. I took a small sip of the water, and it felt like I had discovered a new flavor. The water was clear and refreshing. I had heard that the water was good, but I didn't realize how much I needed it. The taste of the sea was a reminder of the purity of nature. It was a reminder that sometimes, the best things in life are the simplest. I walked for hours, feeling the sand under my feet. It was a feeling that I had never experienced before. The sand was a part of the beach, and it was a part of me now. I had found a new sense of peace and comfort. The sand was a reminder of the beauty of the world. It was a reminder that sometimes, the simplest things are the most beautiful. I walked for hours, feeling the sand under my feet. It was a feeling that I had never experienced before. The sand was a part of the beach, and it was a part of me now. I had found a new sense of peace and comfort. The sand was a reminder of the beauty of the world. It was a reminder that sometimes, the simplest things are the most beautiful.</p>
<p>5. The fifth thing I noticed was the sight of the horizon. It was a clear, straight line that separated the water from the sky. The horizon was a reminder of the vastness of the world. It was a reminder that there was so much more out there. I looked out at the horizon for a long time, feeling a sense of awe and wonder. The sun was still shining, and the waves were still crashing. I felt a sense of peace and tranquility. The horizon was a reminder of the beauty of the world. It was a reminder that sometimes, the simplest things are the most beautiful. I walked for hours, feeling the sand under my feet. It was a feeling that I had never experienced before. The sand was a part of the beach, and it was a part of me now. I had found a new sense of peace and comfort. The sand was a reminder of the beauty of the world. It was a reminder that sometimes, the simplest things are the most beautiful.</p>	<p>6. The sixth thing I noticed was the sound of the seagulls. It was a high-pitched, chirping sound that I had never experienced before. The seagulls were flying overhead, and their sound was a constant reminder of the ocean's power. I watched the seagulls for a long time, mesmerized by their constant motion. The seagulls were a part of the beach, and they were a part of me now. I had found a new sense of peace and comfort. The seagulls were a reminder of the beauty of the world. It was a reminder that sometimes, the simplest things are the most beautiful. I walked for hours, feeling the sand under my feet. It was a feeling that I had never experienced before. The sand was a part of the beach, and it was a part of me now. I had found a new sense of peace and comfort. The seagulls were a reminder of the beauty of the world. It was a reminder that sometimes, the simplest things are the most beautiful.</p>



## Korean War Journal: 1954

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
7/19/54	LST 898 San Diego	Went to the horse races on Saturday. I won a total of 25 cents. Tom & I stayed with his aunt again. Sunday afternoon we played tennis. Congrats on being grandparents again [Joe & Shirley had another daughter, Debbie.] I sending home a bible for you and dad, I am paying for it, so if it comes COD, don't accept it.
7/24/54	LST 898 San Diego	I can't go on liberty because I had some gear adrift that I didn't know was out. Got a letter from Justin and Delores. They are heading for Garriet, Indiana where Justin will attend Seminary. Glad to see that Howard Morrill got back to the states from Korea.
8/1/54	LST 898 San Diego	The only good thing that is happening is that day by day my day of deliverance is coming closer, soon now they'll be springing me from my cage. I'm playing tennis with a married guy. Since we are going to be out at sea this week for about four days, I am going to park my car in front of his apartment because you can only park your car in the Navy's lot for 48 hours. I've changed my approach to writing. I write on paper then type it up.
8/4/54	LST 898 San Diego	Not heading north this week end. Try to get in some golf and tennis. I will go to horse races at Del Mar. I bought a pair of charcoal gray slacks to go with my pink shirt and pink and black tie.
8/9/54	LST 898 San Diego	Played tennis, went to the horse races at Del Mar about 20 miles north (as usual I lost), then Bill and I went to an operetta (Connecticut Yankee) at Balboa Park. I'm slowly turning my duties over to the guys in the radio shack so they won't have to depend on me. Jordan is writing a letter to his new girl friend. This must be the real thing since he's written more letters since he's been back on leave than all the time he's been on the ship.
8/15/54	LST 898 San Diego	Went dancing last night at the Trianon. I will leave the ship on Nov. 5 and get discharged on Friday Nov. 19. I've decided that I may try to work part time when I get out, possibly at the Times. [I didn't realized that the Times would give me my old job back because I was in the service. They dismissed the person who had the job.]







## Korean War Journal: 1954

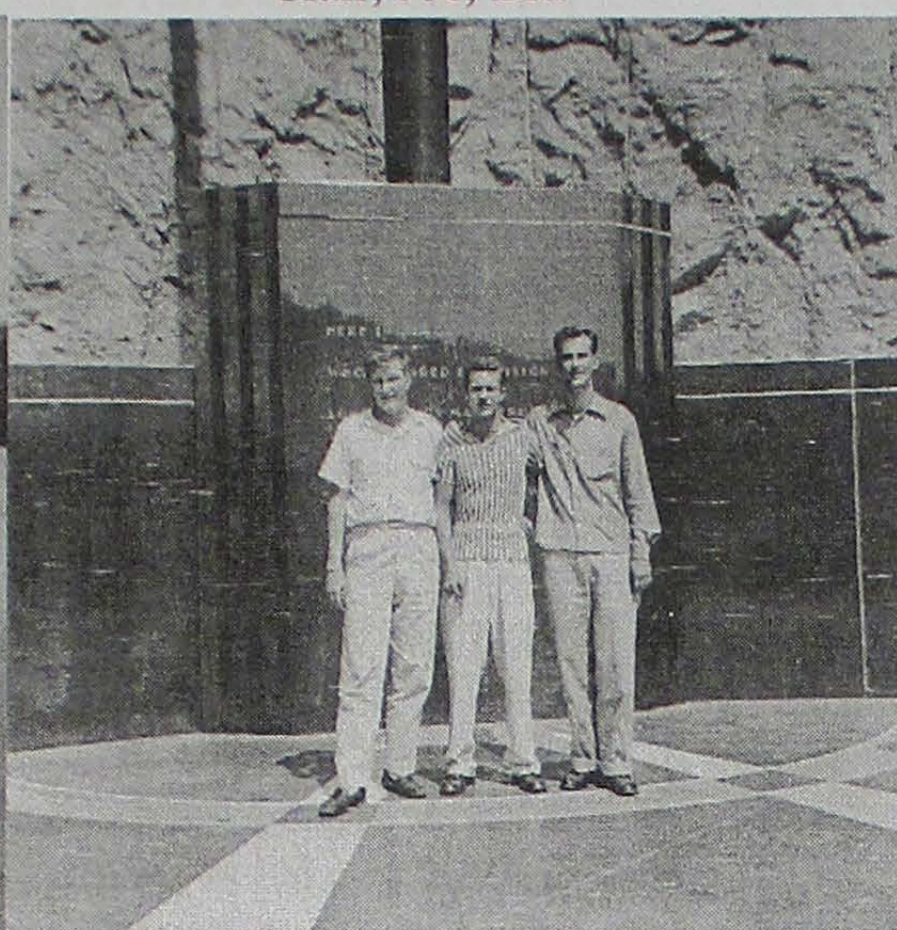
Date	Location	Activities and Comments
8/20/54	LST 898 San Diego	I'm going to try to get discharged in September. I need to get a letter of acceptance from the U. of W. You need to get my Seattle U. transcripts to the U. of W. I went to a dance Wednesday night met this girl, then took her out last night. My buddies and I are planning to go to Las Vegas in the near future.
8/26/54	LST 898 San Diego	It good to know that I don't have to worry about anything not being taken care of at home. You've never at anytime failed to do anything that I have asked yet. [Getting a letter from U of W accepting my enrollment.] It's hard to believe I could be home in just over a month. There are things I want to do, things that are too big to let anything stand in my way. If I ever accomplish them, I hope that I never lose sight of the things in life which have always meant so much to me, i.e. home, the people I know, and love. Yesterday I played tennis and went to a library and did some research. So I pulled a "clean cut liberty" that is owed not to my willingness but to my thin pocketbook. I was surprised that Tommy went home on leave because when I saw him last he said he wasn't going to take leave. I know one thing. Tommy hasn't changed one bit since I've known him.
9/2/54	LST 898 San Diego	It looks like I won't be able to get out of the Navy in time to go to school during the first quarter. I didn't get the letter from the U of W in time, although I got your letter so I guess Seattle U is to blame. Now it is too late. In addition the Bupers (Bureau of Personnel) have started disapproving the requests. We are going to Las Vegas this weekend. I don't know how long we'll be there because we might run out of money. I don't plan on doing much gambling.
9/6/54	LST 898 San Diego	We came back a day early from Las Vegas because Bill lost all his money. I loaned him \$10 but it wasn't enough to tide us over the weekend. We left Friday at 6 PM and arrived in Las Vegas around 1:20 AM. Joe and Bill got tired and slept in the car, I stayed up and played roulette. The next morning we drove the Boulder and got a motel room and then visited Hoover Dam. I won \$7 before Bill was thrown out for being under 21.







My new Car

The three musketeers at Hoover Dam  
Clair, Joe, Bill

## Korean War Journal: 1954

Date	Location	Activities and Comments
9/12/54	LST 898 San Diego	Finally got the letter from U of W. They transferred forty credits from Seattle U. I thought maybe a couple of courses wouldn't transfer. If everything goes well I should graduate in June, 1957 [which I did] Tuition costs \$55 a qtr. Books probably costs another \$100. That will leave me about \$75 to live on. [I lived at home and worked at the Seattle Times.]
9/16/54	LST 898 San Diego	We are going to be able to take our cars to San Francisco. I can also put my clothes in the car so I'll have everything I need up there. Played four sets of tennis yesterday, then went dancing last night. Football season is starting so we'll began watching games.
9/21/54	LST 898 San Diego	Went to Long Beach. Stayed with Tommy at his aunts. Found a place at Long Beach called "Hollywood on the Pike." Did they play music. What a ball we had. We've had a raffle on board ship to raise money for Community Chest. If you win you get early liberty. Guys complained that no one who bought tickets from me ever won. So today I pulled out a ticket which I had sold. Well no one claimed it then I realized it was mine. Everyone said I had cheated. I'm using it Wednesday to spend a day at the library. [I don't mention anyplace what I'm researching.] Tommy says Howard Morrill is teaching school at Castle Rock.







Date	Location	Comments and Activities
9/24/54	LST 898 San Diego	I'm going to run a chit through requesting that I be discharged by Nov. 5. I have a date Saturday night if I go. I may not. The girl thinks our ship is going to be here for six months not leave in a week. It makes me feel a little guilty. We've sure been playing a lot of cribbage. We play with two boards and six guys, but play individually. I play defensively, i.e. do not give them cards that could help them.
9/27/54	LST 898 San Diego	Only four more days before we leave. I like San Diego, but going to San Francisco will make the time go faster. Just won 7 cribbage games in a row. Got a letter from the U. of W. that said they require a B average in all journalism courses. It may be tough to do. Well I can always transfer to History. I'm still writing to the girl in Vancouver. We're planning getting together when I get home. Maybe I can take Tom C. up there too.
10 /5/54	LST 898 San Francisco	The car is finally on solid ground. Yesterday I drove it to Mare Island..
10/12/54	Mare Island	I spent the weekend with my friend Bill's family. We went to the Stanford - Navy game. Navy won 25-0. Went to a movie Saturday and a picnic on Sunday. His sister kept trying to get me to eat more, finally Bill said, "Lee (his sister) he's not bashful, if he wants something to eat, he'll ask for it." What VFW does Tom belong to, I want to join the VFW because they are pretty good. I wouldn't join the American Legion because everything I've stood for they've (led by their stupidity and blindness) been against. For example their withdrawing support of the girl scouts because they claim they are using communist material. The American Legion is a symbol of mass stupidity in my book.



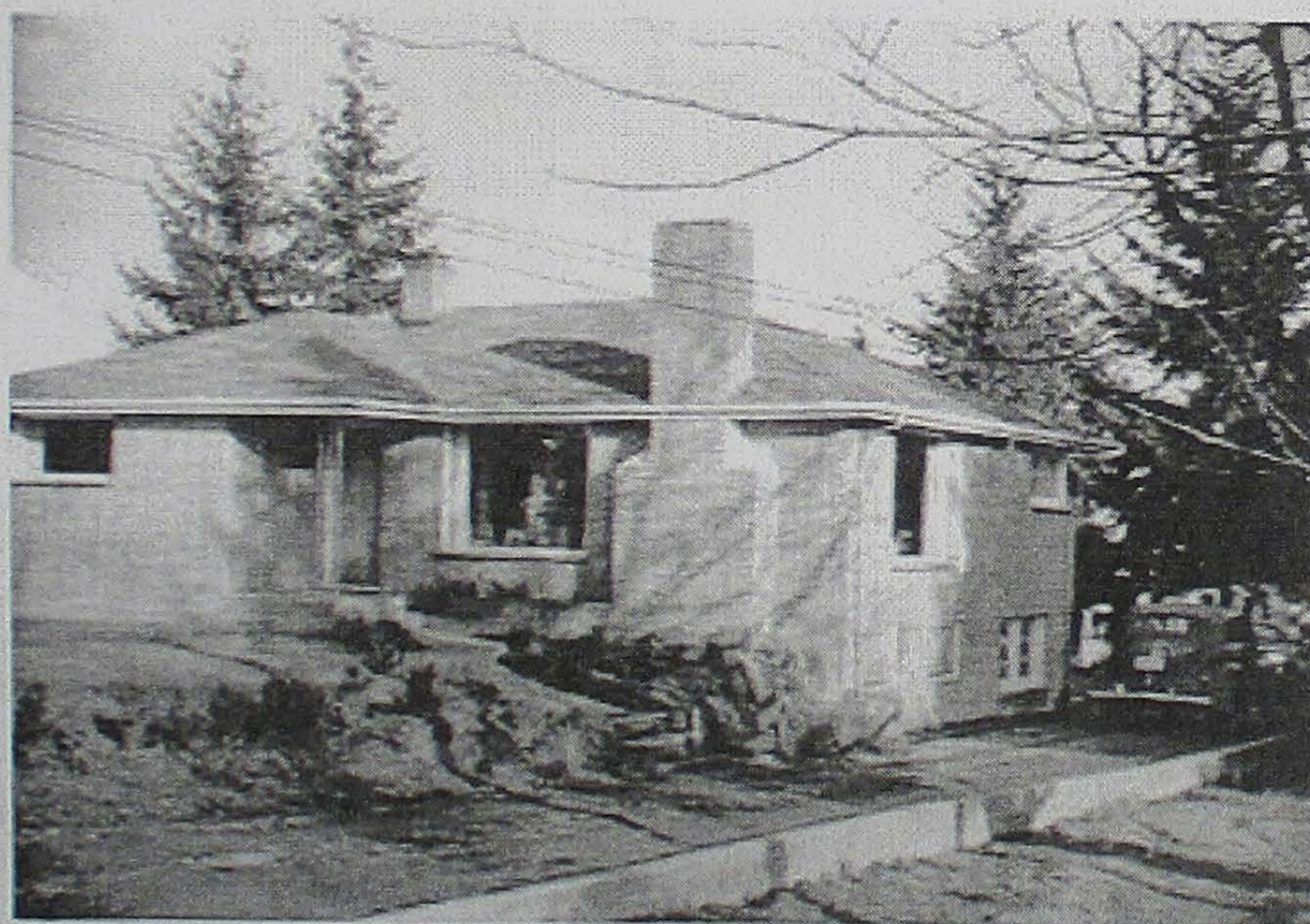




## Korean War Journal: 1954

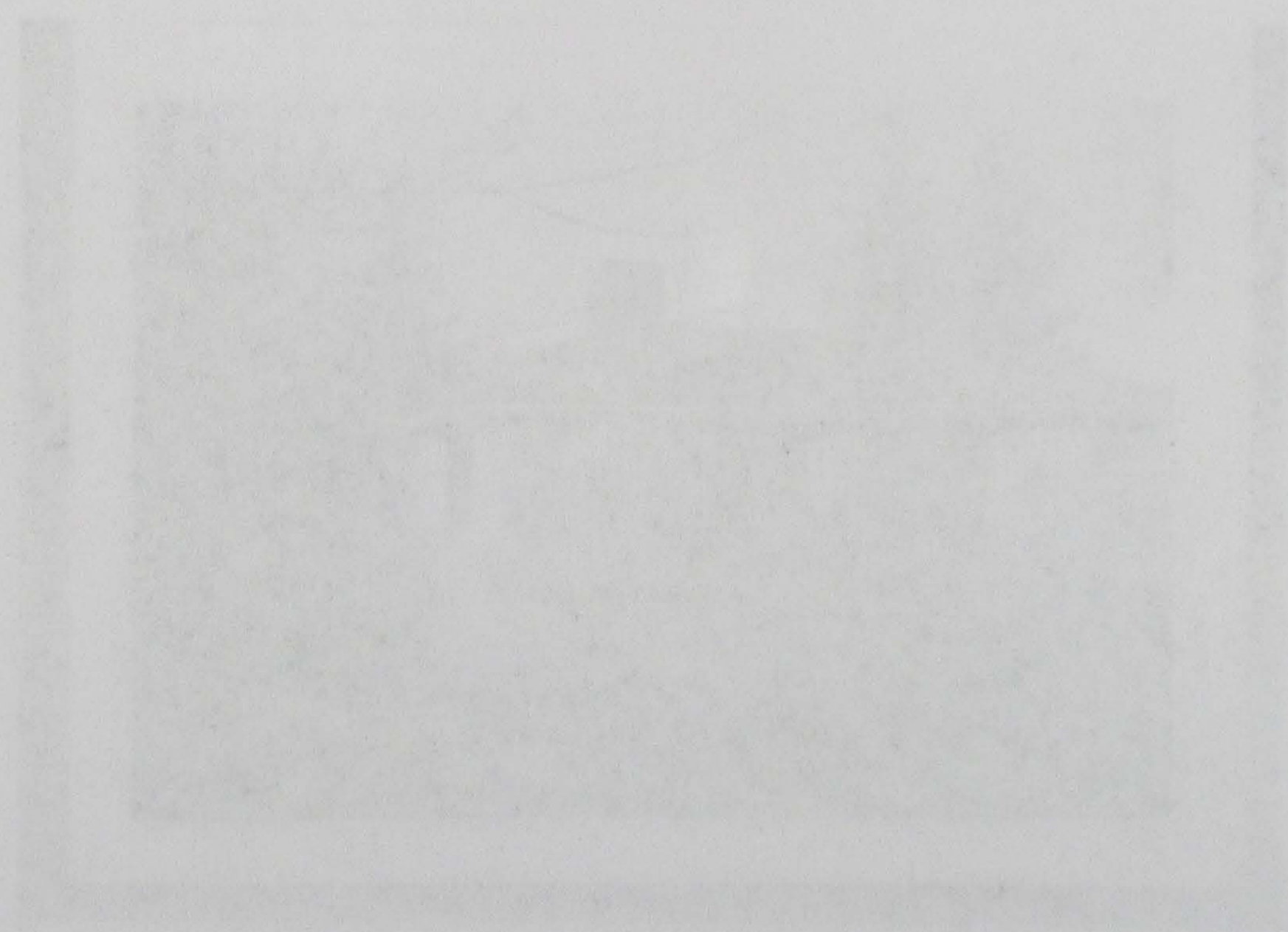
Date	Location	Activities and Comments
10/18/54	LST 898 Mare Island	Friday night Joe and I were invited to Burch's [A guy I played tennis with in San Diego] house for a chicken dinner. His wife is a darn good cook, which I think is unusual among these young brides. Tonight I have quarterdeck watch, which may be my last watch in the Navy. You can quit writing letters after Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> because I'll be at Treasure Island. I'm not sure when I get out because TI is famous for making your last few days miserable. [This evidently is my last letter. In walking through the barracks, I saw a duffle bag with the number 388 38 35 on it. I knew it belonged Don Molitor, who I joined the Navy with. I left a note and he got in touch with me. I was able to locate him He was also getting ready to be discharged]

Home at Last! Home at Last! Thank God Almighty, Home at Last!





Name	Address
Mr. J. H. Smith	123 Main St., New York, N.Y.
Mrs. A. B. Jones	456 Elm St., Chicago, Ill.
Mr. C. D. Brown	789 Oak St., Boston, Mass.
Mr. E. F. Green	101 Pine St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Mr. G. H. White	202 Cedar St., St. Louis, Mo.
Mr. I. J. Black	303 Maple St., San Francisco, Cal.
Mr. K. L. Gray	404 Birch St., Portland, Me.
Mr. M. N. Hall	505 Walnut St., Cincinnati, Ohio.





## MY TRAVELS IN 1954

Date	Location	Miles at Sea
1/1-4	LST 898, Kobe	
1/4-7	LST 898, at Sea	300
1/7-18	LST 898, Sasebo	
1/18-20	LST 898, at Sea	500
1/20-2/15	LST 898, Yokosuka	
2/25-?	LST 898, at Sea	1,200
2/?-28	LST 898, Taiwan	
2/28-?	LST 898, at Sea	700
2/?-3/8	LST 898, Sasebo	
3/8-12	LST 898, at Sea	500
3/12	LST 898, Camp McGill	
3/13-17	LST 898, Yokosuka	
3/17-22	LST 898, at Sea	500
3/22-29	LST 898, Iwo Jima	
3/29-4/1	LST 898, at Sea	500
4/1-5	LST 898, Yokosuka	
4/5-?	LST 898, Nogoya	
4/?-4/17	LST 898, Yokosuka	
4/18-5/3	LST 898, at Sea	3,600
5/3-4	LST 898, Pearl Harbor	
5/4-15	LST 898, at Sea	2,000
5/15-9/30	LST 898, San Diego	
9/30-10/4	LST 898, at Sea	500
10/4-5	LST 898, Oakland	35
10/6-24	LST 898, Mare Island	
10/25-11/5	Treasure Island	
TOTAL MILES		9,335

Total Miles at Sea, 1951-1954, @ 9 miles/hour

58,635







# North Pacific

